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February 21, 2024

The Honorable William Smith, Jr.
Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), I write in support of SB0479. As you know, SB0479, among other things, would increase the maximum penalty for those speeding in work zones and allow for the use of unmanned speed control systems in work zones.

ATSSA Chesapeake proudly represents the manufacturers, distributors, and installers of roadway safety infrastructure products, services, and devices in Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. Our Chapter membership is made up of the men and women who perform this essential infrastructure work to ensure the safety of drivers. Unfortunately, following the 2023 crash on I-695 that killed six roadway workers, our Maryland members know all too well that workers in roadway construction zones work under extremely vulnerable conditions. We are grateful that SB0479 takes steps in the right direction to increase work zone safety by increasing penalties for those who are caught speeding in work zones and allowing the use of further technologies that save lives.

This effort hopefully begins a turning point in preventing similar fatal crashes in Maryland. While your Committee works to finalize the legislation, we ask that any updated language clarifies the types of work zone safety initiatives the new revenue would go towards and how these funds will directly impact work zone safety, as we believe that transportation safety funds should go to transportation initiatives that directly save lives on roadways.

At its core, SB0479 works to help meet our mission to move Toward Zero Deaths, although we strongly believe even more must be done to reach this goal on our nation's roadways. We would also welcome the opportunity to speak with you further on why the ATSSA Chesapeake Chapter supports a measure of this nature, as well as on our other efforts to improve roadway safety. Please feel free to contact me at dmay@rkk.com should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

David May

ATSSA Chesapeake Chapter President

CC: Stacy Tetschner, ATSSA President and CEO