



February 22, 2024

Senator Will Smith, Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 479 – FAVORABLE – Motor Vehicles – Work Zone Speed Control Systems – Revisions (Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024)**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 479 adjusts several aspects of the Maryland SafeZones Program, including allowing the work zone speed control systems to be automated, similar to the speed and red light cameras elsewhere around the State, allowing multiple cameras within a single work zone, and most importantly, raising the civil penalty from \$40 to \$290.

This legislation is a product of the Lt. Governor’s Work Zone Safety Workgroup that met several times over the interim as a response to the tragic crash that occurred on I-695, taking the lives of six of our employees. Our Association played an integral role in that Workgroup and we are grateful to Governor Moore and Lt. Governor Miller for taking immediate, necessary action by introducing this bill to adjust what our Association feels are common sense fixes to this program to assist with ensuring the safety of our road workers.

Every day our workers put their life on the line and it is critical that the General Assembly does everything it can within its power to bring them home each night to their families. We know that these changes are a step in the right direction. Maryland has the lowest civil penalty for speeding in a work zone in the United States. By increasing the fine to an appropriate level—in fact, \$290 is what the fine would be should a law enforcement officer issue a citation—we know



this will work in not only penalizing drivers who speed through our work zones, but changing driver behavior so they slow down. Additionally, but removing the requirement that cameras must be manned by an operator and allowing for multiple cameras in a work zone, these changes will assist with having the most robust program in the country. Again, we appreciate the Administration in introducing this legislation to protect Maryland's work zone employees.

Thank you for taking the time to address these needed changes to our law and we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 479.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association