

SB0785-JPR_MACo_SUP.pdf

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Senate Bill 785

Public Nuisance - Common Carriers - Damage to Public Infrastructure

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 20, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 785. This bill enables counties to seek recourse against certain private transportation companies should they continuously damage public infrastructure.

Local governments in Maryland own and maintain roughly 5 of every 6 road miles across the state. Counties maintain the bulk of this public infrastructure, whether it be in urban areas found within the greater Baltimore-Washington region, or in the rural sections of Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. When common carriers, such as private bus or other transit companies, operate in a way that continuously damages this infrastructure, it is largely counties who are forced to pay for repairs. This not only presents a significant unplanned fiscal burden, but it also proves problematic for residents forced to contend with avoidable congestion due to emergency maintenance measures. By giving counties additional tools to encourage common carriers to operate in less destructive ways, the General Assembly would be implementing a low-cost policy which will save already stretched transportation dollars.

As the primary entities responsible for road maintenance in Maryland, counties support any commonsense measure aimed at enabling smoother operations while putting less pressure on public resources. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 785 a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB785.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 785 – Public Nuisance – Common Carriers – Damage to Public Infrastructure

February 18, 2024

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee

I am writing to strongly endorse Senate Bill 785 – Public Nuisance – Common Carriers – Damage to Public Infrastructure. This will prohibit any common carrier from damaging a bridge or highway that is owned or controlled by the State, a county, or a municipality resulting in its closure. If the carrier does violate the act, this will authorize the Attorney General and the State’s Attorney the ability to bring civil action against the carrier for a violation of the law.

Carriers, like railroad operators, will be held responsible for the damages they may cause during the transportation of goods and services. I thank you all for your time and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay

Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland

Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties