



Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the



TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Eric Ebersole

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
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DATE: February 27, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 50 – *Baltimore County – Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems*

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The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **support with amendment** House Bill 50.

House Bill 50 authorizes Baltimore County to place vehicle height monitoring systems on highways in Baltimore County if authorized by the Baltimore County Council. It would also allow a local law enforcement agency to issue fines upwards of \$500.

Initially, MDSWA had challenges with the text of this bill, as introduced, because garbage trucks are authorized to operate on the roadways of Baltimore County. In fact, dozens of trucks and workers perform essential waste disposal services for County residents daily. Nevertheless, the proliferation of vehicle height monitoring cameras would unintentionally and unnecessarily capture these trucks and workers, subjecting them to potential fines and penalties that would be dismissed anyway. Currently, over 50% of vehicle height citations issued in Baltimore City are dismissed because trucking companies can demonstrate that they were lawfully operating on an otherwise prohibited route. Additional cameras would only increase the dismissal rate and cause disruption to the waste disposal industry as well as to residents that rely on these essential services while raising administrative costs on both the industry and the courts. Even the Fiscal Note states that “such systems tend to identify a greater number of false positives than other automated enforcement systems.” Any legislation to expand vehicle height monitoring systems should

include provisions that expressly prevent violations from being issued to waste and recycling collection companies.

The crossfile for this bill, Senate Bill 41, was amended by the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to include the requirement that before the installation of any vehicle height monitoring systems in Baltimore County, a workgroup must examine and make recommendations to the Baltimore County Council on (1) developing and implementing a process for a vehicle owner to easily contest an erroneously issued citation without the necessity of a court hearing and (2) exempting certain types of vehicles from enforcement by a vehicle height monitoring system, among other requirements. These two amendments have worked to allay MDSWA's concerns.

For the foregoing reasons, MDSWA urges the House Environment and Transportation Committee to give House Bill 50 a favorable report incorporating the amendments passed by the Senate in Senate Bill 41.

**For more information call:**

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