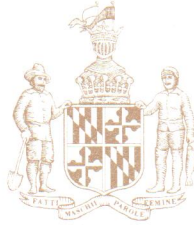


JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2020

SB 557 MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY – VEHICLE NOT USING BRIDGE – NO TOLL PAYMENT
REQUIRED

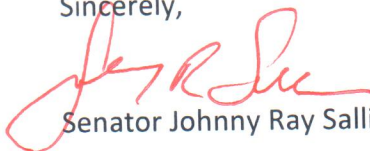
Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for accepting this letter of support for SB 557. This bill would address specific concerns regarding the I-695 toll plaza where vehicles travelling from Broening Highway that want to access the outer loop of I-695 are required to pay a toll even though they do not go across the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

The local streets on which these heavy trucks are travelling are not prepared for the size and weight of these trucks. Their constant passage over these roads causes premature wear which puts a strain on our county finances. There is also a safety issue as the size and weight of these trucks means it takes longer for them to stop. One of the regular bypass routes these trucks take goes right past a school. Safety is an issue with these trucks driving through our local streets.

It does not make sense for trucks that are not using the Francis Scott Key Bridge to be paying the toll, and continuing to charge the toll only brings these heavy trucks onto residential streets. These are streets that are not designed for large trucks. By eliminating the tolling for these trucks that do not cross the bridge, we are saving companies and truck drivers from unnecessary expenses. We are also keeping heavy trucks from driving on our residential areas which protects our roads from unnecessary wear and more importantly our children, schools, and citizens from unnecessary safety hazards. This bill will provide a more direct route for trucks, keeps trucks off of the local roads, protect the community, and provide businesses the economic freedom by removing government barriers. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on SB 557.

Sincerely,


Senator Johnny Ray Salling