



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

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To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: April 2, 2021

Re: **HB 272 - SUPPORT**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Frederick News Post and Hagerstown Herald-Mail to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as, Baltimore Fishbowl, MarylandReporter.com and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is pleased to support House Bill 272, which does three specific items: clarifies that a "distribution list" used by the Maryland Department of Transportation does not include recipients of a notice regarding possible eminent domain taking by MDOT; prohibits the inclusion of those recipients of possible eminent domain taking notice in a definition of "sociological information;" and requires that a requestor acknowledge that such notices will not be used for commercial purposes.

These are specific and tailored steps to increase transparency in the work of the Department of Transportation and we urge a favorable report.



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