



Maryland Motor Truck Association

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HEARING DATE: February 12, 2021

BILL NO/TITLE: **HB705: Transportation – I-270 and I-495 – Prohibition on Toll Lanes (Stop Unnecessary Toll Lanes Act of 2021)**

COMMITTEE: House Environment & Transportation Committee

POSITION: **Oppose**

As the trade association representing trucking companies that regularly travel throughout the state and deliver products to citizens in every jurisdiction in Maryland, the Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) urges the Committee to consider the negative impacts HB705 will have on our region's congestion mitigation efforts.

Safe and reliable truck movements form the backbone of economic growth in the United States. Motor carriers are directly affected by congestion through increased operating costs. Traffic congestion results in wasted fuel, higher labor costs, less safety, greater vehicle wear and tear, and delayed delivery times. According to the American Transportation Research Institute, on the National Highway System alone, delays and congestion cost commercial truck drivers 1.2 billion hours. **This lost productivity is the equivalent of 425,533 commercial truck drivers sitting idle in traffic without moving for an entire working year.**

While MMTA opposes the use of tolls to pay for maintenance on our existing highway system, the Association recognizes that in today's fiscal environment major projects that add capacity to our transportation network are often not able to be funded by traditional means. We understand that for critical capacity enhancements, tolling is typically the only way to fund new highway construction or offset the cost of adding lanes on the existing system. MMTA understands that these projects are often done through Public-Private-Partnerships (P3s) and **supports those efforts providing that the added capacity is the only tolled portion of the highway; and the trucking industry has the option of staying on un-tolled roads/lanes or paying to use the enhanced capacity.**

The passage of this legislation will only serve to limit the state's ability to meaningfully address our congestion challenges at two locations that are among the most traveled in the country. For those reasons MMTA asks for an unfavorable report.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a not-for-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000+ members, MMTA is committed to supporting and advocating for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry across all sectors and industry types, regardless of size, domicile or type of operation.

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