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January 19, 2021

Kumar P Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Building-6 Bladen Street
Maryland Legislature
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB178 Support with Amendment

Dear Chairman Barve:

On behalf of historic car owners across our State, I submit my objection to Part D of HB178. While HB178 is a good bill overall, Part D requires a broader look at the purpose and the impact to historic car owners/hobbyists. It is my understanding the premise of this bill is "a response to the dangerous proliferation of motorcycle racing contests throughout the state. The pandemic has emptied various thoroughfares, making them open to reckless behavior motorcyclists, most of whom have modified mufflers."

The historic car owners and I agree that these motorcycles are a menace to society. There are also challenges with some newer vehicles modifying their exhausts and creating havoc especially as we have seen in some of the car events such as in Ocean City, MD. Not to paint with a broad brush, but these are usually young adults and not the real historic car enthusiasts throughout the State.

A simple amendment to exclude vehicles registered as "historic" would make this bill palatable. I would also think consideration could be given to fining an established business in Maryland that performs the modification on vehicles registered in this State. Just a final thought on this.

I appreciate your consideration of this requested amendment to HB178.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Messineo