



TRUCK RENTING AND LEASING ASSOCIATION

January 19, 2021

Chairman Kumar Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 383: Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems – Exclusion of Vehicle Rental Companies – Repeal and Notification Requirement **Position: Oppose**

Dear Chairman Barve:

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Truck Renting and Leasing Association (TRALA) who rent trucks to consumers and businesses in the state of Maryland. TRALA is a national trade association representing nearly 500 companies engaged in truck renting and leasing in North America. Of concern to TRALA is House Bill 383 which would eliminate the current exemption that prevents the issuance of red-light camera citations to rental companies and would, as a result, create a myriad of problems for TRALA members and their customers operating in the state of Maryland.

While TRALA understands the intent of this bill is to grant motor vehicle owners forty-five days to transfer the liability to the person operating the vehicle at the time of incident, it would not prevent the massive administrative burden of receiving such citations on motor vehicle rental companies. As members of the committee may be aware, it is not uncommon for a vehicle to be rented by different people on the same day, and, as such, determining who was operating the vehicle at a specific time can be extremely difficult. Due to this complexity, rental companies often are unable to determine who was operating the vehicle within the time granted by the state and end up paying these fines out of their own pockets. When this occurs with any regularity, it typically leads to significant increases in rental rates on customers to make up this new cost.

While the removal of this exemption would impact all motor vehicle rentals in Maryland, it would have a particularly negative impact on consumer rental trucks. Consumer rental trucks are mostly rented by those who do not have the means to hire movers. Because the removal of the exemption would force rental companies to increase rental fees, it would undoubtedly create hidden taxes on your constituents.

It is TRALA's goal to avoid such a massive administrative burden on rental companies operating in the state of Maryland and, in turn, prevent rental cost increases by ensuring the exemption for rental companies from receiving red light camera citations remains in effect. It is for these reasons that I am respectfully asking the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee to oppose House Bill 383.

If you or any members of the committee have any questions regarding the truck renting and leasing industry, please do not hesitate to contact me at jjacoby@trala.org or by phone at (703) 299-9120. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

C. Jake Jacoby
President & CEO