

**Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association**  
a chapter of the



**National  
Waste & Recycling  
Association**<sup>SM</sup>

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Prince George's County Delegation

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 4, 2021

RE: **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED** – House Bill 626 – *Prince George's County – Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems PG 305-21*

---

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** House Bill 626, **unless the legislation is amended**.

House Bill 626 authorizes Prince George's County to place vehicle height monitoring systems on highways in the county. Both Baltimore City and Baltimore County have worked with the commercial trucking industry to craft a legislative and regulatory structure for the use of vehicle height monitoring systems as an enforcement mechanism. In both instances, program development has required the evaluation of several key factors, relevant to the creation of an effective program, that does not create unintended consequences for the legitimate presence of trucks on routes that may otherwise have restrictions. With respect to Baltimore County, legislation passed in 2020 specifically called for a workgroup to address the relevant issues prior to the implementation of the program. Since its implementation, the trucking industry has been working proactively with the County to develop its program.

Unfortunately, House Bill 626 does not reflect any of the industry protections and program framework considerations incorporated into the Baltimore County and Baltimore City programs. The challenge, as it relates to MDSWA, is that garbage trucks are authorized to operate on the roadways of Prince George's County. In fact, dozens of trucks and workers perform essential waste disposal services for County residents daily. Nevertheless, the proliferation of vehicle height monitoring cameras, without a reasonable and well defined statutory and regulatory framework, would unintentionally and unnecessarily capture these trucks and workers, subjecting them to potential fines and penalties that would be dismissed anyway.

MDSWA is not opposed to working with Prince George's County and its municipalities to develop a vehicle height monitoring program in their jurisdictions. However, the program must have all the safeguards adopted in Baltimore City and Baltimore County for the program to be acceptable. MDSWA would recommend the legislation be amended to require a study, analogous the one being conducted in Baltimore County, prior to authorizing implementation. Without the adoption of a such an approach, MDSWA respectfully must request and unfavorable report.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000