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Honorable Delegates,

The Accokeek, Mattawoman, Piscataway Creeks Communities Council (AMP Creeks) is based along the Rte. 210 corridor, as are most of our several hundred members, and it is along the corridor where we do most of our work. Members of our board have watched the highway grow from one lane in each direction and spent what seems like half our lives driving up and down it. We know the road well.

We are asking you to please vote in in opposition to HB628. Although this bill was written with the best of intentions, we fear that it misses the mark. Instead of saving lives, these draconian fines could have dire consequences for people who are not well off – for whom this amount of money, more than \$500 for driving even one mile over the speed limit, could represent a week’s pay, all their savings, or put their bank balances in the red.

We agree that speeding is a concern on Rte. 210, but please consider that every person who drives a little bit over the speed limit is not a grave danger to those around them – if there even is anyone else around them. Everyone here has driven over the speed limit. Sometimes you’re late. Sometimes you’re not surrounded by cars and you simply lose track of how fast you’re driving. Sometimes you’re going with the flow of traffic and everyone else around you is speeding. It is a common and minor mistake.

Higher fines for extreme speeding or aggressive driving are not unreasonable – although targeting people on this highway as opposed to other roads with the same speed limit is.

People make mistakes. Driving 1 – 9 miles over the speed limit should not be treated as an extreme crime; it isn’t one. It’s a minor error that everyone makes. Speeding tickets at a minimum of \$540 for driving just a mile over the speed limit could result in the inability to pay bills or contribute to the food insecurity so many people along the Rte. 210 corridor are facing.

Please apply common sense and empathy when considering this bill. We want our roads to be safe just like everyone else does, but shaking down drivers at this level will not make us safer. Thank you.