



February 26, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: *Letter of Opposition - HB 941– Baltimore City – Speed Limits - Establishment*

Dear Delegate Barve:

On behalf of the members of the American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland (ACEC/MD), I would like to express **opposition to *HB 941 – Baltimore City – Speed Limits – Establishment***.

As you probably recall, ACEC/MD is a nonprofit association representing approximately 90 multi-sized consulting engineering firms located throughout the state serving the public as well as private sectors. Approximately 45% of the organization's member firms are certified MBE/WBE or SBE firms in the state of Maryland. Member firms employ approximately 7,000 employees, and are responsible for the design of most of the area's infrastructure, environmental and building construction. The organization focuses on the business aspects of the consulting engineering profession and is affiliated with the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), headquartered in Washington, D.C.

This legislation would allow the city of Baltimore to set speed limits on highways such as I-83 and surface streets that are under the city's jurisdiction without conducting a traffic/engineering study. As a public safety matter, the city should not be allowed to set speed limits without having some rationale for setting speeds. All roads and highways have a design speed, a context and a safety history that should dictate speed limits.

We respectfully request an **unfavorable** vote on this legislation. Thank you very much for considering our opinion on this matter.

Respectfully,

Jim Otradovec, Executive Director
American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland

JO:bw

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