



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2021

Hon. Chairman William Smith

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Good afternoon Chair Smith, Vicechair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams of District 22, and I will be testifying today on behalf of the Prince George's County Delegation in favor of House Bill 626, also known as Prince George's County - Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems (PG 305-21).

This issue was first brought to our attention by Mayor Alan Thompson of Riverdale Park, and has been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly with the full support of the Prince George's County House Delegation. The passage of this bill will enable Prince George's County and the local municipalities within Prince George's County to install monitoring systems to ensure the vehicles that are of a certain size are utilizing the streets within Prince George's County that they are legally allowed to use. Mayor Thompson has submitted written testimony talking about the problems that his town has had with large trucks traveling along residential streets even after reaching out to the trucking companies and installing signage that the roads are limited to certain vehicles. This issue is not limited to Riverdale Park, however, as many municipalities in our county experience the same problem.

This is not just an annoyance to our neighbors across the county - it also poses a financial burden to small municipalities, due to the damage these vehicles can cause to roads that the municipalities are required to maintain. Residential and local roads are not built to withstand traffic of large commercial vehicles, leading to sooner-than-anticipated repairs.

By enacting this legislation, Prince George's County and our local municipalities will be able to hold these drivers accountable for disobeying posted signage and traffic law. The

installation of vehicle height monitoring systems will aid in capturing images of those vehicles that disregard the law and regulations within our county. For those reasons, I urge the delegation to submit a favorable report for House Bill 626.

Sincerely,

Delegate Nicole Williams, Esq.