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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 16, 2021

SB 586

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Exemptions – Older Drivers

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present **SB 586**, Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Exemptions – Older Drivers to you. This bill was requested by a constituent.

SB 586 is a very simple piece of legislation that lowers the minimum age to 65 for an owner of a motor vehicle to be exempt from mandatory emissions testing requirements and increases from 5,000 to 10,000 the maximum number of miles that the vehicle may be driven annually in order to be exempt from mandatory inspection and testing requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 586 and I urge the committee to move this bill with a favorable report.

February 16, 2021

Testimony on SB 586

First I would like to thank Senator Beidle for submitting this bill and allowing me to submit testimony.

We have had this testing in Maryland for long enough. It was needed back in the early days of unleaded gas when vehicles didn't have all the modern emission controls. Now for a vehicle to even be sold in the state it has to have all emissions testing done before even brought to market. These newer vehicles with all the requirements for emissions and safety are very expensive. Then we tax (test) them every two years. There are very few of these older vehicles still on the road. This is very expensive and inconvenient. Once vehicles stop burning fuel how are we going to fund the roads. Invent a new tax.

The air has never been cleaner or people been driving less. Especially with COVID and work from home. It is also harder on older persons on a fixed income. Let get this straight can't go to church but can go get my car taxed (tested). My car is necessary to get to the doctors, pickup food and Medicine. It's not a convenience or used as such. Being retired my car doesn't go very far but still have all the bills, insurance, tags etc.

We start these programs (taxes) but never allow them to go away after the technology improves or the need has passed. Just think of the money, time and productivity being wasted. We could save the tax payer money in mailing fees, inspection stations, machinery, inspection fees and personnel. It time for this whole program to go away but let's start somewhere.

Thanks for your time in this matter.

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