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Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County
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Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

RE: SB 445 – Vehicle Equipment – Safety Glass – Replacement Standards

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to introduce Senate Bill 445. This is a very simple bill.

For many years, Maryland has required the owner of a registered Maryland motor vehicle to replace any broken glass in the car's windshield with safety glass. Until this point, the term "safety glass" has been defined in Maryland law as "any glass product that is so made or treated as to substantially prevent the glass from shattering and flying when struck or broken." This definition is rather broad and unspecific.

This bill requires the Administration to adopt regulations establishing defined standards for aftermarket safety glass replacement that at least meet the Automotive Glass Replacement Safety Standard established by the Auto Glass Safety Council. This organization is a non-profit entity which has developed and continuously maintained North America's only auto glass replacement standard.

To discuss with you why the law of Maryland should be changed from the current general language to specifically reference the Auto Glass Safety Council's safety standard, I am proud to introduce Debra Levy from the Auto Glass Safety Council, Ted Andersen from Novus Glass and SRP Products, and Pat Heflin from Glass America.