



Thomas E. Dernoga
Council Member
District 1

"Effective. Responsive. Committed."

March 8, 2022

Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB1333 Motor Vehicles - Modified Vehicle Exhaust System - Penalties
Position: Support

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to give a favorable report to House Bill (HB) 1333 to alter the penalty for modifying a motor vehicle exhaust system or noise abatement device while establishing certain exceptions.

I represent the furthest northern district of Prince George's County with three different legislative districts: 21, 23A, and 47B. We are adjacent to Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel Counties. The district includes the unincorporated areas Adelphi, Beltsville, Calverton, Montpelier, South Laurel, West Laurel, Vansville and the municipalities of Laurel and College Park.

HB 1333 will provide an additional set of enforcement tools in Section 22-609. Previously, there were no financial deterrents for operating a vehicle with a modified exhaust system. The new fees will disincentivize drivers from modifying their vehicle's exhaust system. In addition to the fines established in HB1333, the bill authorizes the enforcing officers to issue an equipment repair order to the individual in an effort to restore the vehicle to the original design. The issuance of the repair order is key to ensuring the effectiveness of HB1333.

I do implore the committee to be mindful of the potential subjectiveness of the bill regarding officers and the officers' consideration of those in violation of Section 22-609. The committee should look to clarify what an officer must see or hear in order to begin the enforcement. In addition to the concern of potential subjectiveness in HB1333, the committee should seek detailed reporting of the violations and fines distributed to avoid a disparate impact on already marginalized communities.

Altered exhaust systems and vehicle noise complaints have plagued District 1. This is the right thing to do and for the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for HB 1333. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Dernoga