



**HB1333**  
**“Motor Vehicles – Modified  
Vehicle Exhaust System –  
Penalties”**  
**PLEASE SUPPORT**

## **MARYLAND COALITION FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY**

### **SUPPORTS HB1333**

March 8, 2022

To:

Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Committee on Environment and Transportation

FROM:

John J. Seng, Director

*Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety*

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My name is John Seng, volunteer director and founder of the *Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety*.

Our 175-member organization unequivocally supports the enactment of HB1333, “Motor Vehicles – Modified Vehicle Exhaust System – Penalties,” as introduced by Delegates Lehman, Palakovich Carr, Pena–Melnyk, Solomon, and Watson.

Our founding organizations include the *American Automobile Association (AAA) Mid-Atlantic*, the *Greater Olney Civic Association*, *The Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee* in Prince George’s County and a group of Maryland home owner associations.

#### **The Problem**

Throughout Maryland, homeowners and motorists complain about exceedingly loud motor vehicles, be they automobiles or motorcycles on our roadways. Invariably, these excessive and illegal levels of noise result from the illegal installation of aftermarket, illegal exhaust systems. Operators may order these illegal parts online from out-of-state providers, but also from merchants within Maryland who knowingly – and defiantly – market and sell aftermarket products that are illegally installed.

We also believe that operators who exhibit a propensity to willfully break the law in modifying their vehicles may likely be more inclined to behave illegally while traveling on public roads: Speeding as well as reckless, aggressive and/or distracted driving.

Furthermore, the disregard for excessive noise extends into harm to human hearing, especially in vulnerable children and people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Please do not fall victim to the lobbying interests of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) which seeks to “guarantee your right to modify street cars, trucks, and motorcycles into dedicated race vehicles” without any regard for the likelihood that most miles driven by their race car enthusiasts take place on public roads through otherwise peaceful communities.

Marylanders, those traveling through our State and especially all people living here – your constituents – deserve enhanced protection from disturbances to peaceful living.

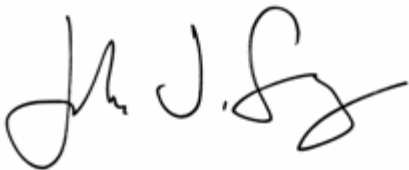
### **Towards A Solution**

HB1333 puts more teeth in current Maryland laws by requiring equipment repair orders for vehicle operators cited with exhaust system violations, in addition to a citation charging operators with an offense, with stepped-up increase in fines for subsequent offenses.

### **Taking Positive Steps**

We thank you and the Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for HB1333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John J. Seng  
Director

Attachment: Letter to Delegate Lehman from Reverend Dr. Robert L. Screen

cc: *Coalition* membership

March 7, 2022

Delegate Mary Lehman  
District 21  
Maryland General Assembly

Delegate Lehman,

I, Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen, Lead Facilitator of the 210 Traffic Safety Committee of Prince George's County and member of the Maryland Coalition for Highway Safety, do hereby submit my support for the passage of Bill HB 1333, Excessive Motor Vehicle Noise.

In agreement with enforcement actions that enhance and promote civil and safe behavior on our Maryland Roadways, I believe the quality of life issue, that this bill directly targets, is in agreement with each Marylander's desire for a more peaceful, and gentile transportation environment that's in the best interest of those who hold dear these qualities.

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen  
210 Traffic Safety Committee  
Maryland Coalition for Highway Safety