



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

TOM HUCKER
Councilmember

Member, Public Safety Committee
Chair, Transportation & Environment Committee

March 10, 2022

Dear members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of HB 1333, Motor Vehicles - Modified Vehicle Exhaust System - Penalties. This bill represents one element of a legislative toolkit that leverages the power of the state government and its law enforcement partners to curb displays of reckless driving and car meetups.

Over the past year, jurisdictions throughout the state have reported a scourge of car rallies on public streets. These events often involve reckless driving on neighborhood streets, large crowds, blocked roadways, and prolonged noise disturbances. Many residents have reached out to me to express their concerns about this behavior and its detrimental effect on both safety and quality of life. Furthermore, these events have caused significant strain on police resources as well as increased overtime costs.

I support establishing a penalty for car owners who modify their vehicles to create excessive noise and undue nuisance. I hope that the increased financial penalty will deter drivers from installing after-market modifications.

This is reasonable, common-sense legislation that enhances the ability of law enforcement to address the proliferation of ear-shattering muffler noise that accompanies the dangerous –and potentially fatal –displays of stunt driving. I urge the committee to support this bill that will help ensure safer roadways and protect our residents' quality of life and right to quiet enjoyment.

Sincerely,

Tom Hucker
Councilmember