

Chairman Kumar Barve House Office Building 6 Bladen Street, Room 251 Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Opposition for House Bill 77

Dear Chairman Barve and members of the House Committee on Environment and Transportation:

The American Motorcyclist Association strongly opposes HB 77 and urges the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on this bill. This legislation is proposing to target dirt bike riders with prison time. This kind of harsh punishment has failed to address the issue of riding dirt bikes on public roads when attempted in cities across the country and result in discriminatory treatment of all motorcyclists by law enforcement.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the premier advocate for the motorcycling community. We represent the interests of millions of on- and off-highway motorcyclists, with nearly 4,800 members in Maryland. Our mission is to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling.

The AMA strongly support the work of local grassroots groups such as B-360 in Baltimore to shift these dirt bike riders off public streets and into safe riding areas to safely enjoy their pastime and get access to training and other opportunities around their love of dirt bikes.

To create a safer community and riding opportunities, the AMA encourages you to work with and continue to build partnerships with existing grassroots organizations such as B360 and to oppose punitive legislation that continues a failed strategy of enforcement and harsh penalties while doing little to address the issue.

We urge an unfavorable report on HB0077.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Stockus

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Government Relations Manager, Off-Highway