Testimony to Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

HB 102 - Support

January 18, 2022

Ronald Weiss
12511 Haxall Ct.
Fort Washington, MD 20744
weissster@gmail.com 301-292-8112

RE: Support of HB 102, "Vehicle Laws – Race and Speed Contests – Penalties" House Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing Date: 20 January 2022

I am Ron Weiss, a founding member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, a founding member of the Prince George's Police Division 7 Citizens Advisory Council, a founding member of the Maryland Coalition for Highway Safety, president of the Indian Head Highway Area Action Council and a board member of the Tantallon Citizens Association speaking for myself in support of HB 102.

I live in southern Maryland and I'm a senior who would rather not meet his Maker on Maryland roads.

All my 6 grown children and their families live in Maryland, and I want them safe on our roads.

My over 4 years of trying to make MD 210 safer has led me to the conclusion that I, my family and all Marylanders are at mortal risk on our roads because of the relatively few drivers who are potential killers.

Transportation safety depends on users following the rules of the road to provide a predictable environment for all users. Racing and speed contests inject chaos in our road environment and make our driving environment less predictable and riskier. Air and railway modes of transportation do not tolerate bad actors and we should not tolerate bad actors on our roads either.

Increasing the penalties incurred by drivers racing and speeding will go a long way to modifying their behavior for the benefit of all drivers and passengers.

I urge the committee to support HB 102.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Ronald F. Weiss