



Maryland Investigators and Security Association Inc.

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March 3, 2022

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 701 Vehicle Laws - Window Tinting Materials - Private Detectives

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

For the past two years, I have been the president of the Maryland Investigators and Security Association. I am also the owner of RESOLUTE CSI, LLC a private detective agency licensed by the Maryland State Police.

Private investigators serve an important function in our economy and society. Many private investigators are employed in the insurance industry, investigating liability claims and helping to reduce the more than \$90 billion in annual insurance fraud costs—costs which flow down to all consumers. We also provide services to attorneys, businesses, and individuals who need a professional investigator to gather information and conduct surveillance to document activities that may benefit our client. Private investigators have always worked hand in hand with law enforcement. They support and facilitate each other's efforts. Enabling private investigators to effectively pursue their work in uncovering insurance fraud and other misdeeds, whether it is through exceptions to window tint laws or other common-sense measures, benefits everyone.

Private investigators must be cautious when working in areas as they can become attractive targets to criminal opportunists. An unfamiliar vehicle parked in a neighborhood may draw some attention but when a person is seen sitting in the vehicle for long periods of times the community may become alarmed. The use of window tinting can aid us in our investigation by remaining undetected and prevent alarming law-abiding residents. They are other reasons for requesting an exemption from current window tinting regulations. Private investigators carry a great deal of equipment in their vehicles to support their surveillance activity. However, many times we may have to leave the vehicle quickly to follow someone on foot. There is no time to secure our equipment so the window tinting may prevent unwanted prying eyes and theft. In most situations we cannot keep our engines running to provide air conditioning on warm days. The window tinting helps reduce temperatures inside the vehicle and block harmful UV rays.

I urge you to give a Favorable Report to SB 701.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barry E. Leese
President
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