



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
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TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

DATE: February 24, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT SENATE BILL 613** – Commercial Vehicles – Nonconsensual Towing – Requirements

On behalf of Maryland's convenience stores and energy distributors, MAPDA offers its support to SB613 – legislation that would establish protections for motor carriers and truck drivers that are involved in a nonconsensual tow dispatched by the Maryland State Police.

A nonconsensual tow is a term used when a tow company is dispatched, often times by the Maryland State Police (MSP), to the site of an accident without the go-ahead from the vehicle owner or operator as to which tow company is used. Often times, our truckers fall prey to abusive practices by tow companies. Those practices include exorbitant fees and holding vehicles and/or cargo hostage until those invoices are settled.

SB613 would require the MSP to establish and publish approved rates for towing. The bill will also clarify existing law that no lien on equipment, cargo, or vehicles may be placed as the result of a nonconsensual tow. Also included is the establishment, by MSP, of a comprehensive process by which drivers can file a complaint against tow companies listed on the MSP's tow list. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, SB613 would also give vehicle owners and operators the option to choose their own towing company provided it can be done safely and within a reasonable amount of time.

For these reasons, MAPDA supports SB613 and **requests a favorable committee report.**

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.