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The Honorable Venessa E. Atterbeary  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 497-Vehicle Excise Tax - Exemption – Active Duty Military - FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Army Alliance, I am pleased to support the referenced legislation and thank Delegate Buckel for its introduction.

The Army Alliance is a nonprofit advocacy organization whose sole mission is to provide support for one of our major military installations in the State – the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). From its founding in 1917, APG has grown into the central research facility for the United States Army, one of 12 such military installations in our State. APG and the defense community in the surrounding area are the largest employer in Northeastern Maryland.

The bill is simple in concept but speaks volumes about the support of our State for members of the military on active duty. This is an important message. Maryland is home to 12 major military installations, of which APG is one. We have supported workforce development legislation for the past several years to ensure that there is an ample supply of retired military personnel to lend their professional expertise supporting the missions of our military installations. This reasonable measure is a modest but meaningful recognition of the value of active military service. It is entirely consistent with the long term goals of the Army Alliance, and our State's traditional support for the defense industry.

For these reasons, the Army Alliance respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 497.

Very truly yours,



Bryson F. Popham