



February 22, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman and Members
Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Oppose – SB 491 – Charles County Board of Education - School Bus Contractor
Employees - Negotiations**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) respectfully opposes SB 491 – Charles County Board of Education – School Bus Contractor Employees – Negotiations.

MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 18 of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State. Our Association counts as members a number of the 24 contractor companies currently operating in Charles County.

By legislating that the employee of a private company be considered “jointly employed” by a government entity under limited circumstances, we maintain that this bill would set an extremely dangerous precedent in the State. We as contractors desire the best for our driver employees; we believe every small business owner would agree – happy and satisfied employees are key to running a successful enterprise. Especially given the current bus driver shortage we are facing as a nation, employee satisfaction is more important than ever. Our negotiations with the local school boards with whom we contract are focused on many factors, including our desire to retain drivers by ensuring they feel respected and fairly compensated.

All that being said, we cannot stand by silently as legislation is considered that would allow contractor employees to be considered “jointly employed” by a County Board of Education. They are private industry employees plain and simple. And quite frankly, we would question the basic legality of such a bill.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to our State.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson, President
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