

February 21, 2023

Hon. Kumar Barve
Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 94 Vehicle Laws - Reduction of Speed Limits by Local Authorities

OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Chair Barve:

On behalf of the members of the American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD), I wish to explain our reason for opposing HB 94, which we believe is in conflict with state law on the establishment of speed limits and if enacted without amendment may possibly result in traffic hazards.

HB 94 amends Transportation Law Section 21-803 to permit local jurisdiction to reduce the minimum speed limit to 15 Miles Per Hour (MPH) everywhere in the state, without the **requirement** for an engineering evaluation to determine if the reduction would comply with established standards for traffic safety.

The sponsors may have thought that Section 21-803.16 currently requires an engineering and traffic evaluation for a reduction in the speed limit; however, that section only requires “*an engineering and traffic investigation when “a local authority determines that any **maximum speed limit** specified in this subtitle is greater or less than reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its jurisdiction...*”

ACEC/MD would not object to HB 94 with the following amendment:

On page 1, line 21 after “maximum”, insert: “**OR MINIMUM**”

With these comments and proposed amendment, ACEC/MD requests that the House Environment and Transportation Committee either approve the recommended amendment or oppose HB 94.

Respectfully yours



Chad Faison

Copy: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee