

Good afternoon Maryland legislators,

We are grateful that Delegate Lehman's bill, HB208 (Street Racing and Exhibition Driving), is being reviewed by the House Environment and Transportation Committee. We are asking you to provide strong support for this important legislation, and as the legislative process proceeds, we ask that you attend to those provisions that met with resistance and ultimately resulted in veto last year.

My family and our neighbors have made countless calls to local, state, and federal police about the noise, traffic disruption, and reckless endangerment caused by unlawful car meets. We were astonished to learn that these gatherings frequently shut down roadways so that 100s of motorists are immobilized (even 1,000s in at least one case) – and these motorists have included first responders and persons needing emergency medical attention. Moreover, we know that hundreds of youths acting together have demonstrated defiant and even aggressive behavior toward our law enforcement officers.

The organizers of these car meets target Maryland because our penalties are not effective deterrents. We are aware that penalties have been strengthened for Ocean City and we ask only that similar law is enacted across the state. We ask that perpetrators face the possibility of arrest, steep fines, points on the driver's license, and vehicle impoundment or forfeiture (for multiple offenses).

Thank you for hearing us. Please support HB208.

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