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March 2, 2023

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chairman  
Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

**RE: SUPPORT HB1049**

**REPRESENTATIVES**

**CUMBERLAND**  
Local 600  
LAWRENCE KASECAMP

**BRUNSWICK**  
Local 631  
TOM CAHILL

**EDMONSTON**  
Local 1470  
KENZELL CRAWFORD

**BALTIMORE**  
Local 610  
JOHNNY WALKER

Local 1949  
ERIC BILSON

As State Legislative Director for the SMART Transportation Division, I am urging your committee's support for HB1049, "Transportation - Assaults on Public Transit Operators - Report."

We all recognize the importance of the vital public service the employees who would be covered under this law provide to the public. However, statistics show that these employees are increasingly being subjected to assaults as the number of reported assaults against them over the past several years continues to climb.

As we recover from the pandemic and with the improved state of the economy the use of public transit is growing. In fact, prior to the pandemic the United States experienced the highest public transit ridership in recent history. This is a good thing for our state and public transit should be promoted to grow our public transit systems even further.

It's unfortunate that the General Assembly hasn't passed legislation with a strong deterrent to address the increase in assaults and prevent these incidents from ever occurring. Although we believe the evidence is there to warrant legislation, we understand that some believe additional statistics are necessary. SB693 requires the collection of data and a report issued to hopefully provide support for future legislation to address the lack of serious consequences for these assaults.

We therefore urge your committee's **support** for HB1049.

Sincerely,

Lawrence E. Kasecamp  
MD State Legislative Director  
SMART – Transportation Division