

March 2, 2023

Bill: HB1130 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization, Use, and Penalties

House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gaithersburg writes to support HB1130 - Vehicle Laws — Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems — Authorization, Use, and Penalties. If enacted, this legislation would authorize a local government to use noise abatement monitoring systems, subject to local law, and provides that the owner or driver of a motor vehicle recorded in violation of certain motor vehicle noise requirements is subject to a citation and a certain civil penalty under certain circumstances. This bill establishes necessary measures for reducing the excessive noise levels that often disturb and disrupt the lives of Maryland residents.

We believe that this bill is a significant step towards mitigating the negative effects of excessive noise levels in our communities. The use of noise abatement monitoring systems will enable local governments to better monitor and enforce noise regulations, ultimately promoting a peaceful living environment. Moreover, the establishment of certain defenses to a charge of an alleged violation recorded by a noise abatement monitoring system provides necessary safeguards to ensure that the law is enforced fairly and accurately. This will prevent false or incorrect citations from being issued and ensure that drivers have a fair opportunity to contest their citations, if necessary.

This bill is also crucial for the health and well-being of Maryland residents, as excessive noise levels have been linked to stress, sleep disturbances, and even cardiovascular disease. The provisions in HB1130 will enable local governments to better control and monitor the sources of noise pollution, providing a safer and more comfortable living environment for all residents.

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We know this legislation will take a significant step towards reducing the negative impacts of excessive noise levels in Maryland communities. Therefore, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB1130.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Therese Hessler, at therese@ashlargr.com. We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor City of Gaithersburg