

Testimony In Favor of HB 435

Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee Hearing, March 29, 2023

Ron Weiss
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March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am Ron Weiss of Fort Washington asking for your favorable report on HB 435.

Thanks to your Committee, the House Environment and Transportation Committee, and years of passionate effort by Del. Valderrama and the residents of southern Prince George's County, we are saving lives on Maryland Route 210. We now have three speed cameras and most drivers have taken notice and slowed down.

Sadly however, some drivers are taking advantage of the long segments without speed cameras on the 13-mile Prince George's portion of MD 210 south of the Beltway by driving fast and furious. On average, 3 vehicles a day were clocked at 90 MPH or more during April through November 2022. Nearly half of those reckless speeders were doing 100 MPH or more where the speed limit is 55 MPH. Our goals are to hold those reckless drivers accountable and to change their behavior.

We are asking for the ability to use up to 6 cameras so we can adequately cover MD 210 south of the Beltway with camera enforcement and to extend the sunset of your authorization an additional 5 years to September 30, 2028.

We are working with MDOT/SHA, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory, and Prince George's County Police to make 210 safer so everyone gets home. While only speeders pay for the speed cameras, our goal is to change driver behavior so no one is cited for excessive speed. We don't have enough public safety staff to adequately enforce traffic on MD 210, so we are using data to optimize speed camera locations to where the worst speeding and crashes occur. Traffic flowing at a reasonable speed will result in fewer crashes and fewer deadly crashes.

Please help save lives on MD 210 with a favorable report on HB 435.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Weiss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".