

**SB 229 - FAV - MML.pdf**

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

TESTIMONY

February 8, 2023

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings

**Bill:** SB 229 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization, Use, and Penalties

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 229, which will significantly aid municipalities curb the rising problem of vehicles creating excessive noise. Specifically, the bill would grant municipalities the authority to install noise abatement monitoring systems.

Currently, municipal police officers are permitted to stop a vehicle that emits a noise in excess of the noise emitted by the vehicle as originally manufactured, but they must do so based on their training and experience. Allowing municipalities to install noise abatement monitoring systems, after a transparent public process, accomplishes two key points:

- Reduces the instances that a police officer needs to make a traffic stop in order to issue a citation for a noise violation.
- More accurately assesses citations, as the noise abatement monitoring systems are precisely calibrated to a certain decibel level before recording an image of the vehicle.

The new authority provided in SB 229 should significantly assist municipalities deal with the problem of excessively noisy vehicles operating on our roadways. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide Senate Bill 229 with a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Theresa Kuhns

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Director, Public Policy

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# **SB0229 Comment - Written Acevedo.pdf**

Uploaded by: James Acevedo

Position: FAV

SB0229 Comment - Written

*P.S. We're not sure how to submit oral feedback when only .PDF files are accepted. Our oral testimony can be accessed [here](#).*

We're strongly in favor of curtailing excessive vehicle noise. We don't live on a large street -- it's a two-way, 35MPH road (Rhode Island Ave in northern College Park) -- but even with two speed cameras nearby there is significant and disruptive road noise most of the time. We understand that motor vehicles make noise; that's natural. However, there are clearly individuals who intentionally modify (and operate) their vehicles to be much, much louder than baseline. We're fans of freedom of expression and leisure, but when those activities impose on unwilling participants, it feels unjust. The levels of noise are disruptive to families and regular work & sleep schedules.

It's important that these efforts NOT target people who are struggling to maintain their vehicles; like taillight/headlight programs (e.g. the "Lights On!" microgrant), please provide consideration or language which focuses enforcement on modified or inherently-loud vehicles, not on malfunctioning ones.

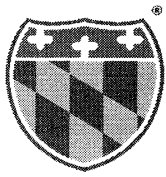
Thanks.

-Jimmy Acevedo

**sb0229 support favorable\_000111.pdf**

Uploaded by: John Becker

Position: FAV



**SafeRoadsMD**

**SB0229**

Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems  
– Authorization, Use, and Penalties:

**PLEASE SUPPORT**

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.  
URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 0229**

February 7, 2023

TO:

Senator William C. Smith, Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
Senator Pamela Beidle, Sponsor  
Members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Becker, Board Member  
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*  
[Jb.i@aol.com](mailto:Jb.i@aol.com) 301 738 2009  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylandcoalitionhighwaysafety>

My name is John Becker, volunteer Board member of the *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.* and a resident of Rockville, Maryland.

Our 200+ member organization **strongly supports the enactment of SB 0229, the “Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties” bill.**

**We request that the Judiciary Committee submit a favorable review of this bill to vastly reduce DUI-related deaths on Maryland roads.**

**The Problem**

I live within 95 feet of Rockville Pike, MD Route 355 in Town Center Rockville, across the street from the Rockville Metro Station. Over the past decade the noise and associated speeding due to loud modified exhaust systems on cars, trucks, and motorcycles has disrupted our quality of life. Modified vehicle exhaust systems are not enjoyed by the driver unless they are driven under hard acceleration and speeds. To live adjacent to Rockville’s Main Street (MD Route 355) is a constant obnoxious situation in the morning, noon, evening rush hour and late at night.

Other areas throughout Maryland are affected by this obnoxious noise and associated speeding. Keep in mind that living in an urban environment does include associated urban noise such as emergency responder vehicles, law enforcement, and the occasional trash truck and tractor trailer. But all in all, cars, trucks, SUVs and motorcycles with original manufactures’ exhaust systems produce background noise which does not distract from the quality of living in our homes and neighborhoods.

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc. PO Box 7, Olney, Maryland 20830

**Take This Necessary Step Towards A Solution**

Enacting SB 0229 is an important step, especially when other jurisdictions in New York City and Washington, DC have moved forward with installing active operation noise cameras in New York City and another system in Washington, DC that is being slowly rolled out this month. Maryland needs to join these municipalities in ending this problem.

**Background – SafeRoadsMD – Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.**

Our founding organizations include the *American Automobile Association (AAA) Mid-Atlantic*, the *Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA)*, *The Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee* in Prince George's County and a group of Maryland home owner associations. Alarmed by growing roadway violence in Maryland, we were established to call more attention to and combat the onslaught of speed and noise on our roads. The *Coalition* represents the interests of communities and individuals who directly suffer the consequences of illegal operation of motor vehicles.

We thank you and the Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for HB0229.

Sincerely,



John Becker  
Board Member

cc: SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors and membership

**sb0229 modified mufflers.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karen Coakley

Position: FAV



Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the committee.

My name is Karen Coakley, President of the Beltsville Citizen's Association. I am a lifelong community activist, supporting 1<sup>st</sup> responders. I have served on the Prince George's County Wide Fire Chief's CAC with Chief Mark Bashor and represented my community on the local Police District CAC for over 20 years. Last year I spoke at hearings on Senator Beidle's bill SB612.

Over the past few years Street Racing and the NOISE from the Modified Mufflers have been in the top 5 complaints from residents of Beltsville. These issues were also repeatedly discussed at our District 6 Police CAC meetings over the past year and a half.

We have laws in place that set limits for noise from parties, music etc... at private residence and legitimate businesses. We have laws in place that restrict the hours of operation for landscaping companies. Yet the drivers of cars with Modified Mufflers are allowed to run the streets 24/7. It is bad enough when one Lone Wolf Driver is racing thru our neighborhoods disturbing our peace and tranquility. It is a thousand times worse when the Lone Wolves get together for one of their Racing Parties. I live a three blocks from Route 1 in Beltsville and 1 mile from the intersection of Route 1 and the Washington Beltway/ I-95. When the Lone Wolf or Wolf Pack is out I can hear them inside my house....even with the windows Closed! If my immediate neighbors and Legitimate Businesses can face fines and penalties for NOISE....then there should be consequences, penalties and fines for the drivers and owners of the cars with Illegal Modified Mufflers.

Why is Someone's Illegal Muffler Alterations more important than the Peace and Tranquility of Maryland Residence! Maryland Residents should be able to enjoy the Peace and Tranquility in their Homes.....They should not be subject to the constant ROAR from the Lone Wolf or the Wolf Pack Racing around Our Communities Gunning or Revving their car engines for entertainment.

Please Vote YES for Senator Beidle's SB0229! Vote YES for Maryland Residents!

Karen Coakley

President Beltsville Citizens Association

4412 Tonquil Street

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

301-741-7672

karenmcoakley@gmail.com

# **SB229 Sound Cameras.pdf**

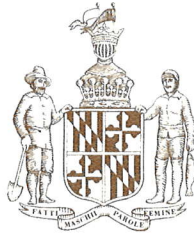
Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE  
Legislative District 32  
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Vice Chair  
Executive Nominations Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 202  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593  
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Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8, 2023

**SB 229**  
**Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems**  
**Authorization, Use, and Penalties**

Good Afternoon Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of Judicial Proceedings,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 229, Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties. Loud vehicles are a quality of life issue for many of our communities, especially those located near state highways. As we all know, It's illegal in Maryland to modify your car's muffler, to operate a vehicle with an illegally modified muffler, or to operate a vehicle that exceeds 80 decibels. Many police departments don't want to pull over drivers because officers aren't equipped with decibel meters, this makes enforcement difficult.

How can we resolve this? New technology is emerging to detect loud vehicles and to automatically send the owner of the vehicle a citation. It's like a speed camera, but for noise. Multiple companies are developing this technology, including a company based in here in Maryland. Two states (CA and NY) have passed legislation to allow pilot programs of the technology. New York City recently launched a pilot program and has issued tickets. Other jurisdictions have done pilots in recent years.

This legislation would enable local governments to use noise cameras to detect and ticket vehicles that exceed Maryland's noise thresholds. The legislation is based on our speed camera program and has the same safeguards built in. A local government would need to authorize the use of the sound cameras:

- Provide public notice and hold at least one public hearing.
- Provide public notice about the proposed location of the camera and install a sign near the camera that indicates that noise abatement monitoring is happening in the area.
- For the first offense, a warning must be issued, for subsequent offenses, a citation is mailed for a civil penalty of up to \$70.
- An employee of the local government must review each citation.

Anyone receiving a citation can either pay it or contest it in court. Rental car companies are exempt from the provisions.

SB229 prohibits the camera vendor's fee being contingent on a per-ticket basis.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB229.

# **Aronson Testimony**

Uploaded by: Philip Aronson

Position: FAV

I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB229, allowing for the authorization, use and penalties of and for Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems. I am a retired senior living in a once quiet residential neighbor in North College Park. I have lived here for more than 43 years. Although, my home is one street away from the Capital Beltway (495), I have always been able to get a restful night's sleep. NOT NOW. The constant noise-day and night- from these so called performance (I call them loud) mufflers has become simply overwhelming. Despite efforts by the City of College Park, along with state and county law enforcement, this issue has only gotten worse. I again urge the committee to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Philip Aronson

5020 Odessa Road

College Park (District 21)

**SB0229-JPR\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: FAV



**MARYLAND**  
*Association of*  
**COUNTIES**

## **Senate Bill 229**

### *Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 8, 2023

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 229. This bill would allow counties to install noise abatement monitoring systems on county roadways. This is enabling legislation that authorizes counties to apply an additional tool in maintaining motor vehicle compliance and safety in neighborhoods and communities.

In addition to the enhanced security and order these programs help local governments maintain, they also help to support other public safety measures that keep these communities thriving. With an automated option for enforcing motor vehicle laws and violations, there is great potential to divert costs associated with law enforcement personnel who would typically be tasked with motor vehicle monitoring. These savings can be reinvested in other areas, while maintaining compliance and calming neighborhoods via the automated monitoring system.

Counties welcome this additional means to provide the accommodations necessary to maintain safe streets for all and doing so in a way that is sensitive to the constant demands on taxpayer dollars and county budgets. For these reason, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 229.

# **RE\_ SB0229 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monito**

Uploaded by: Shane Perkinson

Position: FAV



RE: SB0229 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization, Use, and Penalties

I implore this committee to take action to allow local governments to monitor and enforce local noise abatement programs, as proposed in SB0229. My family owns a home on the corner of Adelphi and Tennyson Roads in Prince George's County. Because there is a stop light, cars are accelerating from a stop at all hours, day or night. Vehicles with modified exhaust to make additional noise wake me and my children in the night, even with the windows sealed. It's unacceptable that drivers can disturb residential areas without any consequence from authorities.

Please take action to hold those disturbing the peace accountable.

Thank you,  
Shane Perkinson  
Prince George's County  
202-938-7292  
[shaneperkinson@gmail.com](mailto:shaneperkinson@gmail.com)  
47B Ridge Rd  
Greenbelt MD 20770

**LetterInSupportOfSB229\_02072023\_SWhitney.pdf**

Uploaded by: Susan Whitney

Position: FAV

February 7, 2023

Esteemed Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to express my support for SB0229, *Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties*. As a member of the College Park City Council representing District 2, I am eager to have as many tools as possible to address what has become one of the biggest disturbances to quality of life in our area. We have posted signs informing the public of laws against modified mufflers. We have requested and received increased enforcement of those laws by our Contract Police Officers. Still, the issue persists.

When I was campaigning in 2021, noisy cars was a common complaint. Last year, one resident appeared before the Council saying he was at his wits' end. He was near a main thoroughfare and was increasingly having difficulty sleeping through the night. He begged us to do something to help. Thank you for putting this legislation forward. Employing noise abatement technology will allow us to continue to disincentivize the choices too many motorists continue to make.

Respectfully,

Susan Whitney

College Park City Council

District 2

(202) 603-3634

# **Senate Bill SB-229- Lervik Comment.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tanya Lervik

Position: FAV

Tanya K. Lervik  
9112 49<sup>th</sup> Place  
College Park, MD 20740  
C: 301-646-1794  
[tanyalervik@gmail.com](mailto:tanyalervik@gmail.com)

February 7, 2023

Re: Senate Bill SB-229

Good morning:

I am writing to voice my support for Senate Bill SB-229 will allow a city or a county in the State of Maryland to add noise-abatement monitoring systems (otherwise known as “noise cameras”).

The sound of menacingly loud exhaust systems is a chronic problem in my neighborhood because we have the Beltway to the North, University Blvd to the South, and Rhode Island Ave to the East. People can be heard drag racing or speeding at all hours and often in the early morning 1am-4am. It frightens my dogs and I feel unsafe.

My neighbor’s sister was in a serious car accident where she was rear-ended by drag racers and nearly killed. The sound of these modified exhausts reminds me of this danger because the same people with the modified exhausts are the ones racing and driving so aggressively that I’m afraid to drive on the beltway anymore. They are a symptom of a larger problem, and they are also just acting selfishly and insensitively toward the community. These proposed “noise cameras” seem like one way to make this behavior more costly and will hopefully act as a deterrent.

Thank you,



Tanya Lervik

# **SB0229 Written Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Todd Reitzel

Position: FAV

I am a resident of College Park, and I support SB0229: Bill to Address Loud Noise by Modified Mufflers.

I have lived in Maryland for 30 years and, in the past several years, have noticed a growing number of loud vehicles on our neighborhood streets and local thoroughfares. This happens, unfortunately, at all hours of the day and night, and it has the effect of increasingly disturbing the peace and our quality of life.

At various community meetings with the police, I've heard my neighbors share how this unnecessary noise negatively affects their quality of life, and I agree with them. In those meetings, I've also heard the police assure us there are laws forbidding the modified mufflers that make this noise and assure us that they are issuing citations. I am grateful for these laws and for this enforcement, but despite that, this unnecessary noise continues. Our hard-working police cannot be everywhere, and thankfully there is the technology of noise-abatement monitoring systems that could assist our police enforce the law.

We need communities that allow us and our children to get adequate sleep to allow us rest to do well the next day at work or at school. We need communities in which we can live without frequent unnecessary loud noise from modified automotive systems. We need our hard-working police officers to be able to focus their efforts on other, more dangerous activities such as crimes.

I encourage you to support SB-229 to allow municipalities such as mine to post noise-abatement monitoring systems to identify these vehicles that are disturbing the peace in our community.

Todd Reitzel  
9743 Narragansett Parkway  
College Park, Maryland 20740

**sb229.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matthew Pipkin

Position: UNF



**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Matthew J. Fader  
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 229  
Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems –  
Authorization, Use and Penalties  
**DATE:** February 1, 2023  
(2/8)  
**POSITION:** Oppose, as drafted

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 229, as drafted. This bill establishes that, under § 22-612 of the Transportation Article, a noise abatement monitoring system may be used in a local jurisdiction if its use is authorized by the governing body of the local jurisdiction by local law enacted after reasonable notice and a public hearing.

The Judiciary has concerns with Transportation Article § 22-612(f)(4). This provision requires court clerks' offices to send to local law enforcement agencies "evidence substantiating who was operating" vehicles when the alleged offender is shown not to have been the operator when the traffic violations were committed. This inappropriately puts courts in the position of assisting a prosecuting agency.

cc. Hon. Pamela Beidle  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor