

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Committee,

I am Fort Washington resident Ron Weiss in favor of HB 974.

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you why I support HB 974 and thank you all for the Committee's years of support for the MD 210 Speed Camera Pilot Project.

A special thank you to Delegate Valderrama for pioneering MD 210 safety seven years ago and staying with it all these years.

My family and I moved here 50 years ago when the Air Force assigned me to a defense agency. Indian Head Highway has been our main street ever since. We use it almost every day to shop, go out to eat, and to visit friends and family. My 6 children and 7 grandchildren live close enough that they visit my wife and I several times each year. We are anxious for their safety when they visit because they travel on the "Highway of Death" when they come.

I have been working for 7 years with the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee and Delegate Valderrama to make Indian Head Highway safe for my family and all other families. We have the support of communities on both sides of MD 210 from Oxon Hill to Accokeek. We have the support of our police, our County Executive, and our County Council. Many Charles County residents use 210 and some have voiced their concern for their safety on MD 210.

The MD 210 Speed Camera Pilot Project data shows it has been a success. It has reduced speeds and I believe it has saved lives by changing the behavior of most drivers. And the revenue generated from those who do speed has been transferred to SHA for MD 210 safety improvements (see MD 210 Report).

But a small percentage of the 80,000 vehicles per day are being driven at outrageous speeds and they are doing so repeatedly.

Law abiding people who use MD 210 should not need to be afraid of the traffic violence created by those drivers.

I'm proud that Maryland believes in being good stewards of its resources. Maryland litter control laws range from a \$1,500 fine and possible 30 days in prison to a \$30,000 fine with possible 5 years in prison.

But compare that to the fine for the driver going 170 MPH on MD 210 - \$40, no points, no prison. This is clearly out of balance with the goal of modifying behavior to keep everyone safe.

HB 974 provides an added deterrent for reckless drivers who flout the rules of the road.

Please continue the effort to save lives on MD 210 by voting favorably on HB 974 to help keep us safe from the crazies who repeatedly drive unconscionably fast and endanger our lives and the lives of our families and loved ones.

Please vote favorably on HB 974.

Thank you.

Ron Weiss, Fort Washington