



Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 Telephone: (301) 985-6585 MountRainierMD.org

March 25, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am Mayor Celina Benitez of the City of Mount Rainier, and I write in support of House Bill 282, with **crucial amendment** that would significantly impact our community.

Mount Rainier supports the bill's intention to enhance traffic safety as we continue to work towards a walkable, bikeable city in which our residents feel safe from potential traffic related accidents. The City of Mount Rainier also has invested in making our city safe with Zero vision Plan that we are working on executing. However, the current limitation in the bill to municipal corporations with a police force restricts our ability to utilize these essential tools effectively. Our city, although equipped with a dedicated police force, faces significant challenges as many others in traffic enforcement due to police shortages and budget constraints necessitating a focused allocation of our limited law enforcement resources.

Therefore, **we propose amendments to HB 282 to allow municipalities with police forces to also utilize technicians employed by an agency for the signing of statements alleging violations recorded by speed monitoring systems.** This change will enable us to manage these systems more efficiently, ensuring timely processing without diverting critical police resources from addressing urgent community safety concerns.

Amending HB 282 to include municipalities with police forces in the provisions for speed monitoring system management acknowledges the diverse challenges faced by Maryland's towns and cities. It provides a flexible and effective tool for enhancing traffic safety and compliance, thereby supporting our broader efforts to protect and serve our residents.

The City of Mount Rainier urges the committee to consider these amendments favorably. By doing so, you will empower municipalities, regardless of their policing capabilities, to utilize modern technologies in our shared quest for safer roads and communities. We are committed to working alongside our state partners to implement solutions that respect our unique circumstances while advancing our collective public safety goals. Please feel free to contact me at 301-985-6585 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Celina Benitez

Mayor Celina Benitez, City of Mount Rainier