



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

March 20, 2024

Testimony for HB653 – St Mary's County – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier and Esteemed Members of the Committee:

For the record I am Delegate Todd Morgan presenting House Bill 653. The purpose of this bill is to establish areas in St. Mary's County where Golf Carts can legally operate on county roads. This legislation follows up last year's bill which mandated St. Mary's County file a report to the Committee on the County's recommendations for golf cart areas. This bill simply authorizes golf cart usage on county roads in the areas outlined in the report filed by the County as recommended in HB219 (2023).

St. Mary's County historically has been a place where workers in D.C. have purchased weekend homes to get away from the hustle and bustle of beltway life. Thus, there are several close-knit waterfront communities which are dense and have a number of shared amenities in St. Mary's County. All of the areas outlined in the report are these waterfront communities described.

Allowing for golf cart usage in these communities has several advantages. Vehicle traffic is already slow because of the residential nature of these communities, and children can often be found playing on the streets due to the low traffic volumes. A fair amount of the traffic in these communities are from residents accessing the shared waterfront amenities. Allowing these trips to be done by golf cart instead of car will improve the safety of the streets, reduce noise, and create a better community atmosphere. Thank you for consideration and we ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd B. Morgan".

Todd B. Morgan
Delegate, Calvert/St. Mary's Counties (29C)