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The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chairperson, House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 100
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland State's Attorney's Association, and the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office, I write in support of House Bill 946 which has the intended purpose of prohibiting the theft of mail or packages from intended recipients.

Whether it be the news or cases coming across my desk, this crime is at epidemic levels. It may be one of the few remaining universal joys to order an item online, track its shipment and delivery, and then locate that item at your house. And, perhaps, as equally disdained as ordering these items for delivery is loved, is failing to find your package, and then realizing it was stolen. With the increase of package delivery as a means for Americans, including Marylanders, to obtain the items they want and need, the criminal enterprise of engaging in the theft of those packages has spiked.

Cases I have reviewed have involved thieves watching for delivery trucks, following delivery trucks, and arranging for delivery of items to the victim, all with the intention of intercepting and stealing packages before the victim takes possession of it.

While home surveillance systems have facilitated the identification and apprehension of these culprits, the current theft law structure connects the level of consequence for the crime to the value of the item(s) stolen. While there are certainly circumstances where the amount stolen reaches into the thousands of dollars, we are typically seeing these thefts yielding under \$1,500.00 in value. Under Maryland Code Annotated, Criminal Law section 7-104, for a first offense, an offender is only facing 6 months and/or a fine of \$500.

The epidemic level of this offense, as well as the frustration incurred upon the victim when this crime occurs, warrants a potential consequence greater than 6 months in jail. I particularly appreciate the clear and simple prohibition and penalty wording of the bill. A thief who steals a package from the exterior of a victim's residence has engaged in a simple crime. The amount of burden and effort on behalf of the prosecution to litigate this offense should be as streamlined as possible. This bill does that.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this bill and I urge this Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 946.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason S. Shoemaker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being the most prominent.

Jason S. Shoemaker,
Chief, Economic Crimes Unit