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MINORITY WHIP
Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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**SB 557 – Vehicle-Miles-Traveled Tax and Associated Mandated Devices – Prohibition
(Transportation Freedom Act of 2025)**

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Budget & Tax Committee:

Senate Bill 557 seeks to prohibit the State or a local jurisdiction from imposing or levying a vehicle-miles-traveled tax or other similar fee, toll, or tax.

Due to the introduction of hybrid, electric, and more fuel-efficient vehicles, many states across the country, including our own, along with other I-95 corridor states, have been exploring other alternatives. A prominent alternative is a per-mile tax.

There are several concerns that should be associated with this proposal. The 4th Amendment of U.S. Constitution guarantees our right to privacy from unwarranted government intervention. In order to tax citizens per mile, the state must track their mileage. Additionally, if a tax like this were to be enacted on top of what is already one of the highest gas taxes in the country, it would be a crippling “commuter tax” on many of those who could least afford it – the working poor and middle class in outlying areas.

The disparity between rural and urban drivers is also a major concern. Rural residents would have to drive much farther than their urban counterparts and will therefore be taxed more.

I respectfully request a **favorable** vote on Senate Bill 557.