



SIERRA CLUB

MARYLAND CHAPTER

P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Environment and Transportation

**Testimony on HB 178: Vehicle Laws – Stopping, Standing, or Parking in a Bike Lane or
Bicycle Path – Prohibition**

Position: Support

Hearing Date: January 30, 2025

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB 178, prohibiting a person from stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle in a bike lane or bicycle path. This bill will help protect designated spaces for cyclists, reduce safety hazards that can cause collisions by forcing cyclists to swerve around parked vehicles, and promote the free flow of bicycle traffic.

Research and experience show that protected bike lanes are good for everyone. In a 2018 report, [Calbike](#) notes that protected bike lanes improve safety for bicyclists, drivers, and pedestrians; [increase sales in business districts](#); boost property values; and get more people to ride bikes by providing the safety, comfort, and separation most people want when cycling. [Other studies consistently show that adding a protected bike lane to a road improves safety for all](#) road users – including drivers, walkers, and bikers. Research shows that adding protected bike lanes reduces all collisions and injuries by 30-50%.

Maryland's Department of Transportation has set a goal to reduce vehicle traffic (measured as vehicle miles traveled per capita) by 20% by 2050 to help meet the state's targets to cut climate pollution and improve mobility. Increasing the accessibility of biking reduces tailpipe pollution by giving people more affordable and sustainable travel options.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges a favorable report on HB 178. .

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