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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 28, 2025

The Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 338: *Baltimore County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Interstate 695 and Interstate 83*

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Those who live in the Baltimore area and visit the city via the Jones Falls Expressway are by now familiar with the speed monitoring systems along the JFX. This speed monitoring system was installed three years ago after the General Assembly passed authorizing legislation. It has accomplished exactly what it was intended to do, namely cause drivers on the JFX to slow down and drive more safely. In fact, so many drivers on the JFX have slowed down that the income produced by the speed cameras is a fraction of the original predictions.

Last year, six of the current 7 Baltimore County State Senators sponsored this bill to place similar speed cameras on the Baltimore County part of the Baltimore Beltway. This year's bill adds the part of Interstate 83 between the Beltway and the Pennsylvania line. The reason is simple. There are drivers on 695 and 83 who seem determined to set world speeding records. Each of the sponsoring State Senators have had the same experience. We are driving at a responsible speed when a car passes us traveling at rocket-like speeds of 90 mph, 100 mph and higher. When this happens, it is shocking and scary. We cringe, convinced that we are about to witness a fatal accident up ahead. Clocking speeds like this in work zones is terrible, but driving 30 to 50 mph over the speed limit on other parts of the highway is nearly as dangerous.

Senators Brooks, Hettelman, Salling, Sydnor and Washington join me as cosponsors of this bill. All of our districts include a portion of the Baltimore Beltway and or Interstate 83.

Senate Bill 338 will bring the same monitoring system to the Baltimore Beltway and I83 as currently exists on the Jones Falls Expressway. The violations enforced by this speed monitoring system will be used to fund road repairs and safety improvements on the parts of Interstate 695 and 83 within Baltimore County. Furthermore, the fines will be imposed once a motorist exceeds 12 miles per hour above the posted speed limit.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 338 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.