Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville

SB 118 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Penalties

SUPPORT

Good morning, Chairman Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. I'm Christine Krone from Schwartz, Metz, Wise, and Kauffman in representation of the Mayor and Council of Rockville. I thank you for this opportunity. On behalf of the City, I want to thank Senator Waldstreicher for sponsoring this important legislation that aligns with our Vision Zero priority.

The Mayor and Council of Rockville support SB 118. This legislation implements a graduated fine structure for speed camera violations based on the vehicle's miles per hour over the posted speed limit ranging from $40 to $350. This bill follows the approach used in the State Highway Administration work zone bill that was enacted in 2024. This legislation is critically needed to address excessive speeding across the State and in Rockville that we've seen in recent years.

We support the provisions of SB 118 for the following reasons:

- It uses a more equitable approach to automated speed enforcement by increasing the monetary penalty relative to the level of speed over the posted limits. Currently, a motorist driving at 40 or more miles per hour over the speed limit receives the same fine as a driver who is traveling at 13 miles per hour over the speed limit (lowest speed that triggers a fine).

- The graduated fine structure has the potential for further positive driver behavior adjustments. We saw dramatic and positive change in driver behavior when speeding and red light cameras were installed in Rockville.

SB 118 is a critical step forward in protecting our communities from excessive speeding caused by dangerous driving. It is a known fact that as speeds increase, the potential for crashes and serious injury rises. SB 118 provides law enforcement with additional tools to combat excessive speeding. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide SB 118 with a favorable report. Thank you.