



Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Vince Flook, President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland
Will Cain, 1st Vice President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

DATE: February 19, 2026

RE: **HB 474 - Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Accumulations of Snow and Ice - Removal From Exposed Vehicle Surfaces (Clear Before You Drive Act)**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) **SUPPORT** HB 474, which prohibits a person from operating or towing a vehicle without removing accumulated snow and ice from exposed vehicle surfaces. It also provides for enhanced penalties if a violation causes a property damage, serious bodily injury, or death.

Towing and recovery operators are among the first to arrive on the scene of crashes caused by snow and ice dislodging from vehicles. We see firsthand the devastating results of accumulated snow and ice flying from a vehicle's roof, hood, trailer, or cab and striking another motorist. The results include shattered windshields, multivehicle collisions, serious bodily injury, and even, in the worst instances, fatalities.

HB 474 is a common-sense safety bill. A driver already has the responsibility to ensure their vehicles and loads are secure. Just as towing and recovery professionals must properly secure every vehicle to a tow apparatus before transporting it, every driver should ensure that snow or ice does not detach and endanger others.

For these reasons, the Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) **SUPPORT** HB 474 and urge a favorable committee report.