



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road & Responsible Motorcycle Legislation Since 1974

To: The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chairman and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee; and

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chairman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee; and

The members of the House of Delegates, and

The members of the Senate

From: Ken Eaton, Executive Director, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

Date: July 31, 2026

Re: **HB2100 / SB2100** - Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Position: **Unfavorable – Do Not Support**

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. represents the over 200,000 motorcyclists in Maryland. We are a state motorcycle rights organization that brings together the voices of independent riders, clubs, and riding organizations. We have chapters throughout the state, and our members include a diverse cross-section of motorcycle riders in Maryland. We cover the mountains to the ocean and everywhere in between. Our members and friends include people from every walk of life. We have junior members that hope to ride the roads alongside us one day. We all dedicate our personal time and money to fighting for motorcyclists' rights.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. **DOES NOT SUPPORT HB2100/SB2100** - Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress. This bill seeks to grant jurisdiction to the Supreme Court of Maryland to review the congressional districting plan of the State.

This bill, presented during a Special Session, does nothing to promote the well-being of Maryland citizens. Special sessions are intended to address matters that cannot wait for the scheduled 90-day legislative session. This is not an urgent matter for the State. It is not a budgetary emergency, nor an unexpected legislative vacancy.

Just months ago, the 2026 regular session ended, and no bill was presented at that time. How is it an emergency now, but it was not in April?

Looking back through the Maryland election results, specifically in Congressional District 1, there has been a republican congressman representing that district since the 2010 election. That is the vote of the people of that district. Right now, Congressional District #1 is one of the few districts that have boundaries that make sense. It includes all the Eastern Shore counties, all of Cecil and Harford counties, and a portion of Baltimore County. This district is truly representative of rural Maryland.

In 2022, Circuit Court Senior Judge Lynn A. Battaglia, struck down the legislature's original congressional map calling it an unconstitutional product of "extreme partisan gerrymandering". That map took out most of Harford County, the small portion of Baltimore County, and added a portion of Anne Arundel County

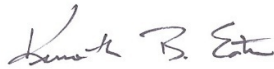
in Congressional District 1. There was no logic to the boundary drawings, it just fit party wishes. The district was no longer contiguous and included more urban areas.

Many of our members live in the rural areas of Maryland. Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore are where a large number of our members live and ride. When our ABATE members go to Washington DC for the Annual “Bikers Inside the Beltway” event hosted by the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, we have often sat in Congressman Andy Harris’s office and had face to face, productive discussions about laws that affect motorcyclists.

Therefore, we respectfully ask both the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee members, and the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee members, to provide a vote **NOT IN FAVOR OF HB2100/SB2100**.

In addition, if these bills come to a floor or Joint vote, we respectfully request that the Delegates and Senators provide a vote **NOT IN FAVOR OF HB2100/SB2100**.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth B. Eaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" being the most prominent.

Kenneth B. Eaton, Executive Director
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.
Tel: 410-263-9185 (office)