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Statement Text:

I thank the committee for hearing testimony regarding MD SB452.

Request the committee vote for passage of SB452, as amended when the “Grandfather” provision is included for the following reasons:

- 1) Legislation last year effectively designated 1999 as the END OF AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY, with no rolling allowance which is prevalent in most US States having an Historic registration. History (historic) is a component of time, time marches on, thus so does history. The legislature’s action last year stopped the clock with a 1999 drop dead date. Maryland’s “historical” dilemma has already been noticed by national publications, online and in print by the Wall Street Journal and two leading online auto publications.
 - 2) The State’s designation of post-1999 vehicles as “not historic” demeans their value and places additional administrative and financial levies upon hobby members, often at the entry level. This designation hurts the future of the hobby. Some selected examples/photos of what’s historic from the years 2000 and beyond are attached to my testimony for your review.
 - 3) This hobby generates significant revenue for the State of Maryland. From Ocean City to Friendsville, Car Shows and Meetings all generate tourism, gas, food and other local revenue and sales tax. Civic organizations host car shows, with resulting millions of dollars given yearly to charities. Owners of historic vehicles do their part by following the law and attending and displaying their occasionally driven and State designated historic, vehicles to these events.
 - 4) SB452 with grandfather provision is endorsed by the following organizations in Maryland: “Save The Hobby.org”, ABATE of Maryland, the Antique Automobile Club of America and the Maryland Collectible Auto Association. This bill is being monitored by at least 17 different Maryland car club groups on Facebook totaling 90,000 page members.
- I thank the committee for their time and urge passage of SB452 as amended with the “grandfather” provision included for previously issued H-tags cancelled under the current 1999 eligibility restrictions.

End Statement

Accompanying examples of selected American-made automobiles considered “not historic” under current Maryland regulation:



2002: Last F Body Camaro



2002: Last F Body Firebird



2001-2005 Ford Thunderbird



2001-2006 Panoz Esperante Made in USA
347 built. Winner Le Mans, & Sebring



2001 Plymouth Prowler
Entire Plymouth brand dies 2002



2002 RT10 Dodge Viper - last year