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February 4, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Bldg
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support HB481 Transportation - Commercial Signs - Penalty

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Our State and local government agencies have been unsuccessfully battling the scourge of illegally placed signs attached to every structure imaginable in public right of ways for decades. In 2011 we modified Transportation Article 8-605 to allow State & local jurisdictions to levy a \$25 fine for each sign illegally placed. However, we soon learned that the fine amount did not cover the cost of administering the program.

In the intervening years the problem has grown, with thousands of "We (or I) Buy Houses", "Health Insurance for Self Employed", "Cash for Cars", "We Buy Diabetic Test Strips", "Get Your Medical Marijuana Card", etc. ad nauseam.

We've learned that this bandit sign blight can be almost eliminated when enforcement is consistent and the penalties painful. With a \$1,000 fine our enforcement agencies will be able to afford the enforcement effort and violators will get the message. Please support HB481.

Respectfully,



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