



Larry Hogan  
Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor  
Gregory Slater  
Acting Secretary

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 700 – Highway Construction – Storm Drains – Covers and Task Force on Preventing Debris From Entering Storm Drains***

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 700 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 700 requires any new or replacement storm drain cover installed on a street or highway prevent debris larger than one inch in height or circumference from entering storm drains. The bill also establishes the Task Force on Preventing Debris from Entering Storm Drains and requires the MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), in collaboration with other units, to staff the Task Force.

While smaller openings in storm drain grates may result in less debris from entering the storm drain, capturing more debris at the grate could create dangerous roadway conditions. Incidents of standing water, flooding, or frozen roadway surfaces are more likely to occur when water is unable to properly access a storm drain. After water enters the storm drain system, it is either diverted to a county pipe or stream, or to a stormwater management facility. If the stormwater is diverted to a stormwater management facility, a forebay is typically designed to capture and trap debris before the water is discharged into the larger waterbody. Every new roadway design by MDOT SHA includes storm water management facilities to catch debris and mitigate storm water runoff.

MDOT respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates House Bill 700.

Sincerely,

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