



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter
In Favor of SB0648 - Vehicle Laws - Disposal of Abandoned
Vehicles - Public Auction
Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee
on February 16, 2021**

Mr. Chairman, Vice chair, and Members of the Committee:

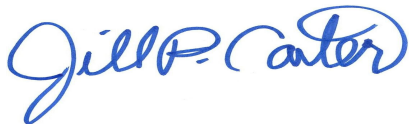
Currently, Maryland Law only allows police agencies to sell an abandoned vehicle at public auction. This bill would afford authorized sellers (including “trespass towers” and property owners in possession of abandoned vehicles) the same options. As the law stands now, trespass towers are only permitted to sell vehicles for scrap - substantially less than they could recoup if they were permitted to sell the vehicle intact. This would not be a large windfall for trespass towers as existing regulations would apply to sellers for how the proceeds of sales are to be distributed.

This bill would not remove current statutory requirements for sellers. Law enforcement would continue to review and verify applicant requests prior to certification for sale. All these safeguards would remain in place.

These small businesses currently bear the costs of the storage, towing, notification of the owners, insurance companies and potential lien holders entirely themselves. By allowing these businesses to sell abandoned vehicles at auction, it gives them more options to recoup their out of pocket costs and reduce fees for the average consumer.

For these reasons, I ask for a favorable report on SB 684 from this committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jill P. Carter