

Mr. Chairman, I am Kim Lamphier, Board Member at Bike Maryland. Bike Maryland thanks you for sponsoring this important legislation.

Bike Maryland enthusiastically supports SB142. The subjects that you have outlined for study mirror the issues that local cycling organizations raised during our recent advocacy meeting.

Maryland's bicycle rating from the League of American Bicyclists has fallen from

The number of cyclists dying on our roads continues to increase.

Cyclists are those who:

use their bicycles as a primary form of transportation including those who are economically disadvantaged and those who are new immigrants

- ride the trails with their families for recreation
- come to Maryland as tourists to enjoy our natural and historical areas by bicycle, adding to our economy
- do long rides on Maryland's vast scenic road network
- ride in support of charities across Maryland.

This Task Force is set up to study and recommend ways to improve conditions on Maryland's highways for all of these cyclists.

We also must note that we will be testifying on three bills later this session that will likely come before this committee. We hope that the creation of this task force will not prevent the committee from passing these three bills that are urgently needed to address immediate needs and save lives.

More than 500 Maryland cyclists have signed a petition in support of this legislation. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to pass SB 142. Bike Maryland looks forward to participating in the work of this Task Force.

Thank you.