Honorable William Smith, Jr.

Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

2 East Wing
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re:       SUPPORT

Subj:   SB 91 Criminal Law – Assault – Public Transportation Operator

Dear Senator Smith:

Re:       Support for SB 91 Criminal Law – Assault – Public Transportation Operator

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

On behalf of the drivers for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I ask that you and the other members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee give this bill a favorable vote.

If passed into law it would help us to discourage assaults on transportation operators.

Many if not most of these violent acts could be discouraged by advertising that an assault on a transportation operator has been increased from a misdemeanor to 2nd degree felony.

Our drivers provide essential public service for the public in our community.  It deeply concerns us they are assaulted by passengers or enterprising criminals. If these attacks are reported and if the suspect is arrested and if they are convicted, the verdict is a misdemeanor and the perpetrator generally released with little if any penalty.

The lives of public transportation operators should carry no less value than that of other public servants that are exposed to abuse and assault from the public while performing their duties.

Maryland should apply the law in the same way for an attack on a public transportation worker as it would for an identical attack on parole officers, who may be armed.

Please vote favorable on SB 91.

Sincerely