



Senate Bill 86

Vehicle Laws – Size, Weight, and Axle Load Limits

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: March 18, 2014

To: Environmental Matters Committee

From: Andrea Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 86. This bill would exempt State and local vehicles used for emergency operations and snow/ice removal from size, weight, and axle load restrictions.

As technology improves, emergency and snow removal vehicles are becoming much heavier. Wing plows, which are able to clear three lanes of road at once, are over weight restrictions. Other vehicles, such as those that spread salt, may start out overweight when they are fully loaded.

Under current law, a special vehicle permit would need to be requested and issued for these vehicles to operate. This process is redundant and time-consuming for the State Highway Administration and local governments. SB 86 would create operational efficiencies by eliminating this requirement.

MACo urges the Committee to give SB 86 a **FAVORABLE REPORT**.