

February 21, 2020

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

**RE: Opposition of House Bill 733 (Transportation - Private Sector Transportation Projects  
Ombudsman - Established)**

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes House Bill 733 (Transportation - Private Sector Transportation Projects Ombudsman - Established).

This measure creates a Private Sector Transportation Projects Ombudsman within the Department of Transportation to respond to concerns and inquiries from residents and government officials about private transportation projects.

While we appreciate the intent of this bill to respond to constituent questions about transportation projects, creating a new office and paying for the appointment and salary of the Ombudsman will be an expensive endeavor. The State already has the Department of Transportation to oversee projects; at a time when Maryland is heavily investing in other significant programs, creating a new and redundant position is simply not fiscally responsible.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members