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February 19, 2020

Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SUPPORT

Re: **HOUSE BILL 603 – COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – ESTABLISHING
REGIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS - AUTHORITY**

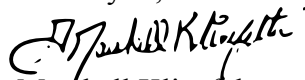
Dear Chairwoman Kaiser and Committee Members:

The Maryland Asphalt Association is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 21 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 39 other associate members. We proactively work with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

We ask that this committee show unwavering support for HB 603. This bill would provide Maryland students with regional Career and Technical Education schools. By establishing these schools, students will be able to take alternative career routes if they choose, and will ultimately produce more qualified candidates in the technical field. It will also create opportunities for Maryland companies to recruit, employ, and retain Maryland residents into high paying careers. The Interagency Commission on School Construction will provide a State and Local cost-share formula for County boards of education to ensure this venture will be appropriately and fairly funded. With the support of the Commission and this Committee, we will be able to grow job opportunities and provide students who opt for an alternative track a bright future.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we urge a favorable report on House Bill 603.

Thank you,



Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association