



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



Senator Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget & Taxation Comm.
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 18, 2021

RE: SB 81-FAV W/AMD-Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project-Funding

Dear Members of the Appropriations and Environment and Transportation Committees:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) and the Maryland Asphalt Association (“MAA”) collectively represent tens of thousands of Marylanders who operate in the areas of transportation construction, production and engineering. Together, for nearly 100 years these organizations have served as the voice of the transportation construction industry. The mission of both MTBMA and MAA is to encourage, develop, and protect the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry, and also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

As an industry we are supportive of any efforts to modernize and update our transportation networks in Maryland and we applaud the Sponsor’s goals in this piece of legislation. However, we would suggest an amendment to SB 81 to change the funding source for this project from the Transportation Trust Fund to another source of revenue. The needs of our members and our industry are great, and we as a State cannot afford to further reduce the inadequate resources we currently have. The Transportation Trust Fund, which supports Maryland’s transportation infrastructure, is critically underfunded as is and this bill would exacerbate those losses.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this bill and ask that if you pass SB 81 it is with the amendments we have advocated.

Sincerely,

Michael Sakata

President & CEO, MTBMA

Marshall Klinefelter

President, MAA