



Maryland Motor Truck Association

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HEARING DATE: January 31, 2023

BILL NO/TITLE: House Bill 74: Transportation - Maryland Rail Authority - Establishment (Maryland Rail Investment Act of 2023)

COMMITTEE: House Appropriations Committee

POSITION: **Oppose**

Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) opposes House Bill 74 as the Association believes it will result in substantial increases in toll rates, the loss of discounts for high-volume toll spenders, redistribution of funds currently used for operations and maintenance of heavily-utilized trucking corridors, and elimination of meaningful future congestion mitigation projects such as the potential 3rd span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Maryland's transportation system is the backbone of its commercial activity, with trucks providing the integral link for the state's rail system, the Thurgood Marshall Baltimore-Washington International Airport, and the Port of Baltimore Seagirt Marine Terminal, which serves as a distribution center of national importance. Trucks are the hub of Maryland's distribution wheel, playing a vital role in the state's economic development as they safely and efficiently support the state's manufacturing, agricultural, and retail industries.

As recognized in the fiscal/policy note, the impacts of HB74's passage on small businesses will be significant as MDTA will likely be forced to greatly increase toll rates under the bill's requirements. Most notably among these is the impact on the Port of Baltimore, which relies greatly on the motor carrier industry and the independent owner-operator to move the containers, automobiles, and breakbulk products that traverse the Port. If the costs of distribution to or from the Port rise, its attractiveness to shippers will unquestionably fall.

For the reasons noted above, MMTA respectfully asks for an unfavorable report.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to support, advocate and educate for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry in Maryland.

For further information, contact: Louis Campion, (c) 443-623-4223