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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 15, 2023

Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 473 – UNFAVORABLE – Environment – Ambient Air Monitoring – Particulate and Fine Particulate Matter

Dear Chair Wilson, Chair Barve, and Members of the Committees:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 24 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively 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.

House Bill 473 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to take into consideration relevant ambient air monitoring data collected by a series of monitors that the bill dictates are to be deployed throughout various census tracts in the state the bill refers to as "overburdened" or "underserved" before the Department can approve any permit to construct, modify, operate, or use anything that can release emissions into the air.

While MAA understands the hazards posed by climate change and supports reasonable measures to reduce pollution, we believe that House Bill 473 is a drastic overreach aimed at attacking all forms of growth and development. The bill adds a time-consuming review period before the Department of the Environment is allowed to approve permits for any project that causes any amount of emissions. This fails to consider the potential environmental benefits of a project (e.g., the decrease in vehicle emissions that we expect to see due to the OpLanes Maryland P3 project) and would effectively slow growth and development in Maryland to a halt.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 473.

Sincerely,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association