



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 Transportation Builders and Materials Association (MTBMA) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland's construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects 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 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 MTBMA 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.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association