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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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January 24, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 173 – UNFAVORABLE – Consolidated Transportation Program - Indian Head Highway - Conversion Into Limited Access Highway

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 19 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 25 contractor members, 25 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.

This bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to include sufficient funds in the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for FY 2025 and beyond for the planning, design, and reconstruction necessary for the conversion of Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) into a limited access highway from the I-495 and I-295 ramps to the Charles County border.

MAA respectfully opposes SB 173. This is not how the CTP process is completed. If we allow every legislator to demand funding for projects in their jurisdictions, it sets a new precedent, eroding the process entirely. Additionally, the Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs Commission recently released their interim recommendations, including one that requests that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) develop and implement a new prioritization process for the 2026-2031 CTP. Therefore, this bill is premature and such requests, at the very least, should wait until MDOT has implemented a new process.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request and respectfully request an **UNFAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 173.

Sincerely,

Tim E. Smith. P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association