



February 29th, 2024

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

RE: HB 516 – UNFAVORABLE – Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act of 2024

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee:

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 516, the “Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act of 2024” establishes the Climate Crisis Initiative within the Department of the Environment to assess greenhouse gas pollution fees, establish the Household and Employer Benefit Fund, as well as the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund. While our organization appreciates the intent of this legislation and all legislation aimed at protecting our environment, we have serious concerns about how this bill will impact our members and the transportation industry as a whole.

This bill establishes a fee per ton of carbon dioxide on transportation fuels. Starting in 2025, the fee will be \$25 and increase by \$3 each year through 2034, where it will then increase to \$52 per year starting in 2035. This will cripple our transportation industry that relies on natural gas and other means to dry aggregate and produce the materials needed for our roads. With the State’s massive cuts to the transportation budget over the six years, at the very least, resulting in less work for our member companies, how can the legislature pass a bill that will create such heavy taxes at such a challenging time? We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request, and respectfully ask for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 516.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

