



January 24, 2024

Delegate CT Wilson, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
231 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 244 – UNFAVORABLE – Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Act – Civil Penalties – Alterations

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 244 dramatically increases the civil penalties for a violation of Maryland’s Occupational Safety and Health program (MOSH). Passage of this bill would more than double the fee for a violation under this program from \$7,000 to \$15, 625 for each violation. As an organization there is nothing our members value more than the safety of our employees. Our industry prioritizes safety above all else. Nevertheless, at a time when we are still suffering from slowed growth in our economy and tremendous financial strain, we cannot support a nearly three-time increase of this fee. Similarly, we would oppose the connection of the percentage increase in these penalties to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Our industry is suffering and the burden of these additional costs will cripple our member companies.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request and for the reasons stated above, we respectfully request an **UNFAVORABLE** report House Bill 244.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association