



3/26/24

Written Testimony for HB 245

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on HB 245. My name is Glenn Cobb. I am the manager of Government and Community Relations for Vulcan Materials Company. We are pleased to be a proud partner of the transportation and construction industries in Maryland for over 30 years. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with portions of HB 245.

We understand the background leading to the Department of Energy looking to propose HB 245 and, in general, agree that adequate fees to cover permit applications and renewals are a reasonable approach. Permitting programs are often expected to cover their administrative costs through fees. We also understand that modest fee increases from time to time will be necessary to cover increasing costs of the programs. However, the excessive increase in fees as proposed, does cause us concern.

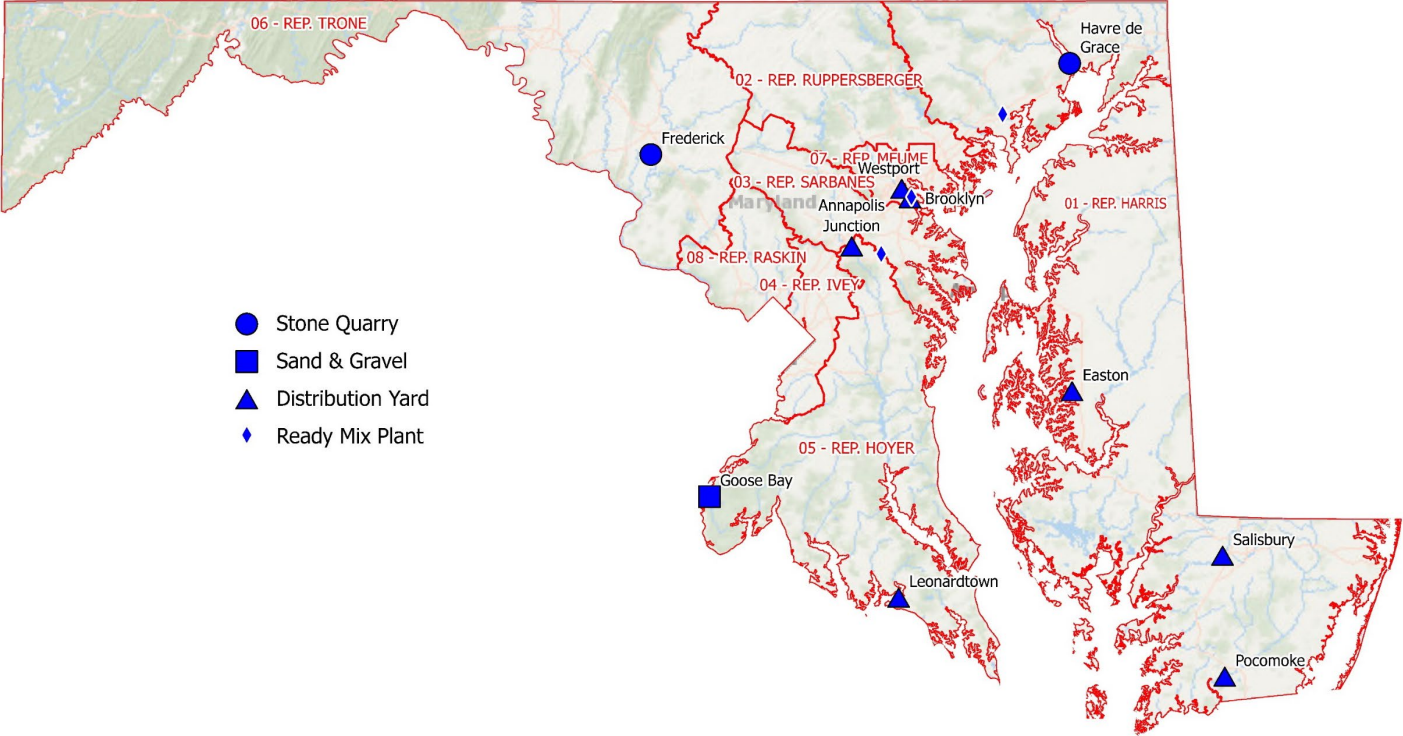
This bill would propose to raise fees on mining operations' annual permit renewals and permit modifications dramatically, over 1000%. While we agree that fees probably should be increased, this type of sudden, dramatic increase is not reasonable. Charging a per acre fee for a quarry does not make sense. Unlike sand and gravel operations that add and remove portions of their operation from the active permit, quarries obtain permits for hundreds of acres at a time. Even though mining may only occur on a very small portion of the footprint for many years, all of the acreage remains permitted and bonded for the life of the quarry and the fees are still levied on the entire permitted site. In our case, that is over 20,000 acres throughout our footprint in the state of Maryland. In this period of dramatic price increases, salary increases and supply cost increases, as well as a myriad of other fee increases in the state of Maryland being proposed this year alone, this increase is just too much at one time. All of these increases in cost greatly impact the cost per ton of the aggregate we produce which raises the cost of paving, infrastructure development, housing and most everything else in the built environment. We respectfully request that you eliminate sections 15-815 and 15-816 from HB 245 and let our industry work together with DOE to come up with a more thoughtful and sustainable approach to permitting fees in our industry. We have always worked very well with the DMME and see no reason we could not do so on this matter. Thank you for your consideration of our request.




Regards,

Glenn Cobb, Manager

Government and Community Relations

MARYLAND



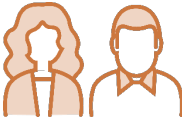
-  Stone Quarry
-  Sand & Gravel
-  Distribution Yard
-  Ready Mix Plant



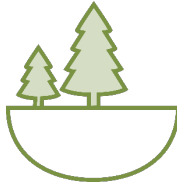
14
Aggregates Production & Distribution Facilities



4
Ready Mixed Concrete Facilities



219
Employees



1
Wildlife Habitat Council Certified Sites



\$128M
Economic Impact

Population living near a Vulcan operation

51%
10 Miles

75%
<50 Miles

All data and metrics are as of year-end 2022