



February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 1088 – LETTER OF INQUIRY – Environment – Public Participation in the Permitting Process – Alterations**

Dear Chair Feldman 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.

Senate Bill 1088 expands judicial review for certain environmental permits to include areas where the EJ Score for the census tract where the applicant is seeking a permit is above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. It also requires permit applicants to request an EJ Score from the Department of Environment and include that EJ Score on the application. Lastly, it expands the standing for a party.

MTBMA submits this letter of inquiry to ask that the legislation define and clarify what an EJ Score is. The bill does not include a definition. Moreover, we have some concerns about the expanded standing as well as the requirements of the permit applicant. These changes will only add delay and therefore cost to what is often a long and arduous process.

We appreciate you taking the time to review our concerns on SB 1088.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or seal.

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association