



Maryland Motor Truck Association

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HEARING DATE: April 2, 2024

BILL NO/TITLE: SB1188 – Maryland Protecting Opportunities and Regional Trade (PORT) Act

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee

POSITION: Support

In the aftermath of the tragic collapse of the Key Bridge, Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) offers its support for SB1188. Until such time as the waterways are cleared and reopened for delivery, the blockade of the Patapsco River will choke off economic activity for local trucking companies. Many will be unable to survive in the days and weeks ahead without financial assistance.

The Port of Baltimore relies greatly on the motor carrier industry and the independent owner-operator truck driver to move the containers, automobiles, and breakbulk products that traverse its terminals. Trucks are the hub of the state's distribution wheel as they support the manufacturing, agricultural, and retail industries.

MMTA appreciates that SB1188 extends not just to workers on the Port terminals, but also to industries like ours that require access to the Port to survive. A life support will be needed for many of these local businesses to keep them afloat. Without this the Port will have substantially reduced truck capacity to move freight when volumes are restored.

The association appreciates the engagement of all applicable federal, state, and local government agencies to deploy the necessary resources needed on behalf of the trucking industry at this difficult time. As such, MMTA asks for a favorable report.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association that has represented the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to support, advocate and educate for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry in Maryland.

For further information, contact: Louis Campion, (c) 443-623-5663