



March 5th, 2024

Senator Pam Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 871 – UNFAVORABLE – Unemployment Insurance – Disqualification – Stoppage of Work Caused by Labor Dispute

Dear Chair Beidle 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 871 seeks to amend the provisions regarding the disqualification from receiving unemployment insurance benefits due to a stoppage or work caused by a labor dispute. The bill specifies the disqualification does not apply for any week beginning after the first 14 days of an individual’s unemployment due to the stoppage of work.

MTBMA opposes this legislation because it would disincentivize workers from resolving disputes in a timely manner and returning to work. While our organization understands the intent of this legislation, prolonged labor disputes could exacerbate labor shortages and hinder our industry’s ability to meet demand for critical infrastructure projects. MTBMA encourages a more collaborative approach that promotes dialogue and resolution in labor disputes while ensuring the continued strength and vitality of our economy.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 871.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association