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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 5, 2024

Senator Will C. Smith, Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 870 – UNFAVORABLE – Vehicle Laws – Electric Vehicles – Weight Limit

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 19 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 25 contractor members, 25 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 870 proposes amendments to Maryland's transportation laws to accommodate electric vehicles (EVs) by allowing them to exceed specific weight limits. The bill introduces formulas for calculating weight limits based on axle distances and provides additional allowances for vehicles equipped with fuel-saving technology, permitting plug-in vehicles to exceed weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds.

MAA opposes this legislation because it sets a precedent of giving preferential treatment to EVs over gas-production vehicles. While MAA recognizes the importance of promoting sustainable transportation options, this bill poses significant risks to our roads, leading to increased maintenance costs and potentially compromising road safety. Due to their heavier weight, the impact EVs have on our roads and infrastructure is irrefutable. The weight limit exceptions outlined in SB 870 will exacerbate Maryland's roadway issues without fair contributions by EV users.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 870.

Sincerely,

Tim Smith, P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association