



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:

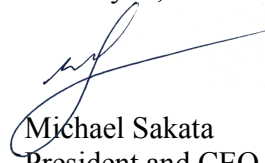
The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of Maryland's transportation construction and materials industry 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 870 proposes amendments to Maryland’s transportation laws to accommodate electric vehicles 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.

MTBMA opposes this legislation because it sets a precedent of giving preferential treatment to EVs over gas-production vehicles. While MTBMA 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.

Thank you,



Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association