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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 27th, 2024

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
131 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 919 – FAVORABLE – Property Tax – County Authority to Set Special Rates

Dear Chair Atterbeary 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.

House Bill 919 would authorize the governing bodies of the Counties and Baltimore City to set a special property tax rates for the purpose of financing the cost of state or county transportation improvements or the county's minimum school funding amount.

MAA strongly supports HB 919 because we have suggested using localized taxing to assist with transportation funding needs for a long time. In coordination with other associations around Maryland, we created the Together for Transportation Funding Coalition aimed at educating public officials about various ways we can increase revenue in Maryland for transportation projects. One of those ways is through regional transportation authorities, which set localized taxes in a region that are used for transportation-related purposes, benefiting the localities of that region. HB 919 seeks to do something very similar by allowing counties to set tax rates that can be used to finance transportation improvements.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 919.

Sincerely,

Tim E. Smith, P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association