

February 11, 2020

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair Environment and Transportation Committee 251 House Office Building 6 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401 **OPPOSE** 

## Re: HOUSE BILL 299 – PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS- REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION – PROHIBITION

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

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.

HB 299 would significantly encumber the State's traffic relief plan by prohibiting Public-Private Partnerships from acquiring residential real property needed to expand I-495 and I-270. We strongly believe that the I-495 and I-270 Managed Lanes Program will greatly alleviate highway congestion, cut down on emissions and pollution caused by idling cars, and allow commuters to travel safely and efficiently through the State. By revoking the Public-Private Partnerships' ability to acquire land needed to rectify a critical state concern, it will make the execution of the Maryland's current relief plan nearly impossible and will take away any impactful development that would positively affect the State of Maryland and its citizens.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 299.

Thank you,

Michael A Salala

Michael Sakata Executive Director Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association