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February 13, 2020

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

OPPOSE

Re: HOUSE BILL 194 – STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION – HIGHWAY WORK PERMITS – PEDESTRIAN ACCESS (PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ACT OF 2020)

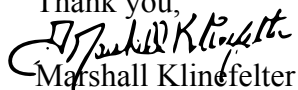
Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Asphalt Association is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 21 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 39 other associate members. We proactively work 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.

HB 194 would require workers within the construction and transportation industry to apply for an additional permit for business within two miles of any Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority rail service or transit station, or Maryland Transit Administration transit station. This requirement is unnecessary and will cause undue financial and performance hardship on organizations such as ours. During the permitting process, it is already standard practice for contractors to provide adequate pedestrian access in areas where construction or maintenance work is permitted. Passage of this bill would require contractors to essentially repeat this portion of the permitting process, doubling costs, which will affect project costs and potentially change the ability to execute build outs. Frivolous duplication of the permitting process will delay projects, which will prove a great disservice to Maryland commuters who have to work around construction sites longer than originally anticipated. For these reasons, we strongly believe this bill will have a significantly harmful impact to the State of Maryland.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 194.

Thank you,



Marshall Klinefelter

President

Maryland Asphalt Association