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February 13, 2020

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

OPPOSE

Re: **HOUSE BILL 292 – TOLL ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND BRIDGES – COUNTY GOVERNMENT CONSENT REQUIREMENT – EXPANSION**

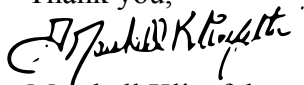
Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

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 292 would expand the requirement that a State agency may not construct a toll road, highway, or bridge without the consent of the affected counties to now include all counties in Maryland, and Baltimore City, not just the nine Eastern Shore counties. The original law that created this consent requirement for the nine Eastern Shore counties was specifically designed for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. This bill, however, is designed to stop existing projects for toll roads and highways in suburban Washington. By requiring additional authorization and cooperation among various local jurisdictions, it will delay traffic alleviation efforts that will in turn significantly affect Maryland residents and commuters in a region desperately in need of traffic relief.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 292.

Thank you,



Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association