February 13, 2020

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair Finance Committee 3 East Miller Office Building 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401 **OPPOSE** 

Re: SENATE BILL 232 – PROCUREMENT – PREVAILING WAGE – APPLICABILITY.

Dear Chairwoman Kelley 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.

SB 232 would change the applicability of the Prevailing Wage Law for construction jobs from 50% or more to "in whole or in part." This would effectively require every construction project funded by the State to use a prevailing wage. Labor costs account for near one-third of all construction costs. As a result of this bill, a project's overall costs would increase significantly, as would project delays due to the paperwork that is required under the Law. Furthermore, contractors do not have the resources to audit the smaller companies to see the wages they are paying. This legislation would have a negative impact on the State and in turn, our businesses and the citizens of Maryland who have to foot these additional expenses.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 232.

Thank you,

Michael A Salala

Michael Sakata President and CEO Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association