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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 20, 2020

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

OPPOSE

Re: **SENATE BILL 434 – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH – HEAT STRESS STANDARDS**

Dear Chair Kelley 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.

SB 434 would require employers to develop, implement, and maintain heat-related illness prevention plans for employees, which includes providing potable water with a temperature of less than 59 degrees, limiting the length of time an employee is exposed to heat, and acclimatizing employees to areas where exposure to heat is present. While we respect the sponsor's intent with this legislation, we feel it is cumbersome and impossible to administer. For instance, ensuring that the temperature of the water is below a certain degree would be costly and unnecessary. There is no evidence to show that cold water is essential for treating heat concerns. We would also like to stress that employee safety is of the utmost concern to us and our members, and we place high value on ensuring that. We already create and utilize safety guides for heat related stress and implement many of the measures referenced in the bill into our daily work day. Moreover, OSHA requires employers to protect workers from recognized serious hazards in the workplace, including heat-related hazards.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 434.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association