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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



SECRETARY:
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G. Marshall Klinefelter

March 3rd, 2021

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1092 – UNFAVORABLE – State Procurement – Emergency and Expedited Procurements – Revisions and Reporting

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Chair McIntosh, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Asphalt Association is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 20 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 40 other associate members. Combined our members employ more than 4,000 Marylanders in our operations. We assist with the education of our workforce, sponsor safety activities and promote best practices while working diligently to produce the highest performing pavement materials with the lowest carbon footprint. 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.

The current emergency procurement process is thorough and efficient, making HB 1092 both redundant and unnecessary. This bill creates superfluous obstacles to an already tedious process. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many industries to decrease the efficiency in which they operate. This along with the economic crisis that has occurred as a result of this pandemic, makes this bill even more harmful to Marylanders. An emergency procurement is helpful for all citizens to get their needs addressed as soon as possible, so it would be counterintuitive to slow down this process further. We cannot afford any more delays in progress considering the circumstances in which we are living. While we believe the Sponsor's intent was helpful in nature, in practice, this bill would have many negative unintended consequences. So, it is for these reasons that we ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 1092.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marshall Klinefelter".

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association