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February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 843 – UNFAVORABLE – I-495 and I-270 Public-Private Partnership – Partnership Agreement – Requirements (Maryland Department of Transportation Promises Act of 2021)**


Dear Members from the Budget and Taxation and Finance Committees:

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 843 calls for a mandate on how funds generated from toll lanes on I-495 and I-270 will be allocated. The bill calls for 10% of toll revenue from these highways to be distributed to a special fund, and the money within that fund can only be used for transit projects that comply with memorandums of understanding between the Department of Transportation and the governing bodies of the counties where the toll facilities are located. This will ultimately grant counties more power than the State and lead to dependency on the State for funding. This will lead to additional provisions placed on an already well-coordinated and heavily regulated system. The needs of our State are critical, and we cannot afford to impose more constraints on a region that is struggling with massive deficiencies in its transportation infrastructure network.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 843.

Thank you,

  
Marshall Klinefelter  
President  
Maryland Asphalt Association