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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 5th, 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
231 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1012 – UNFAVORABLE – Labor and Employment – Reinstatement of Employment – Employees at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI – Thurgood Marshall Workers’ Right to Reinstatement Act)

Dear Chairman Davis 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.

Under this emergency legislation, HB 1012 would require all employers at Baltimore-Washington Airport (“BWI”) to reinstate laid-off employees. As you are well too aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has created immense hardships for the businesses within the airport. Airport executives do not estimate passenger traffic to get back to pre-pandemic levels for at least two years. As a result of this unprecedented pandemic, every business at BWI has had to scale back their labor immensely. This bill is a matter of bad public policy and we simply cannot support anything that seeks to control how the private market handles employment affairs. No one wants to get these employees back to work more than their former employers, but we cannot allow the legislature to mandate how and when an employer brings back a former employee.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation and ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 1012.

Thank you,

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

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association

