



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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

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

February 5, 2021

RE: HB 581 – UNFAVORABLE – Labor and Employment – Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers’ Protection Act)


Dear Members of the Appropriations and Economic Matters Committees:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) and the Maryland Asphalt Association (“MAA”) collectively represent tens of thousands of Marylanders who operate in the areas of transportation construction, production and engineering. Together, for nearly 100 years these organizations have served as the voice of the transportation construction industry. The mission of both MTBMA and MAA is to encourage, develop, and protect the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry, and also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.


As an industry we are supportive of any efforts to ensure the safety of our workers, especially during an emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are primarily concerned about codifying these laws as they are redundant with our current industry standards. The Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration already has requirements regarding hazard pay and health insurance coverage during health emergencies. We also uphold the strictest of safety protocols for our employees, such as providing employees with all of the proper personal protective equipment, enforcing hygienic practices, and creating conditions that will reduce the risk of injury or disease. We will continue to enforce these regulations, and for these reasons we ask you for an unfavorable report on House Bill 581.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Sakata
President & CEO, MTBMA



Marshall Klinefelter
President, MAA