



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

UNFAVORABLE

January 19, 2021

RE: SB 121 - UNFAVORABLE - Zoning - Environmental Justice Considerations

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

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.

While we appreciate the goals included in SB 121, the restrictions outlined in this bill do not achieve environmental justice goals in an equitable manner. At a time when our broader transportation industry is suffering greatly from the ravages of the reduction in funding from the gas tax proceeds, as well as the effects of COVID-19, we would suggest that requiring a property owner to pay for an environmental justice analysis is overreaching and over burdensome. Our transportation infrastructure network is the lifeblood of our economy. It is currently critically underfunded and this bill would exacerbate those losses. This bill would contribute to unnecessary overregulation for Marylanders and our industry.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this bill and ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 121.

Sincerely,


Michael Sakata

President & CEO, MTBMA


Marshall Klinefelter

President, MAA