

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

**RE:** SB 721 – <u>UNFAVORABLE</u> – Procurement – Small Business Reverse Program – Administration and Application

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association ("MTBMA") has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland's construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials.

While we appreciate the Sponsor's intent with this legislation, we must oppose SB 721. This bill has a negative impact on businesses like ours. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to cope with various economic hurdles, and this bill would only increase that burden. SB 721 puts a significant disadvantage on our industry by prioritizing other establishments. We believe this is something that the market should dictate. Furthermore, these types of additional considerations only further delay the procurement process. We ask the Committee to consider the harmful impact this bill could have, and it is for these reasons that we ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 721.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata President and CEO

Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association