



February 3, 2021

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

UNFAVORABLE

Re: **SENATE BILL 59 – STATE PROCUREMENT – SMALL BUSINESS RESERVE PROGRAM**


Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:


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 bill sponsor’s laudable goal with this legislation, we always take a position that industry goals should be left for the market to work out and not handled legislatively. Procurement projects are not a “one size fits all” and setting preferences can negatively impact who is the best for the job. By taking an unfavorable position, we do not want this to suggest we do not support small businesses because some of our members fall into this category. We just feel that the industry and state agencies should determine how best to handle contract procurement.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 59.

Sincerely,


Michael Sakata
President & CEO, MTBMA


Marshall Klinefelter
President, MAA