

CHAIRMAN:
Brian Russell
VICE CHAIRMAN
Jeff Graf

MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



SECRETARY:
Curtis Hall
TREASURER:
David Slaughter
PRESIDENT:
G. Marshall Klinefelter

March 4th, 2021

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

RE: SB 829 – UNFAVORABLE – Emergency and Expedited Procurements – Reform

Dear Chairman Pinsky 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.

SB 829 would slow down the procurement process by implementing more steps that are seemingly counterintuitive, because the emergency procurement process is used for projects that must be done in an expedient fashion. This bill is onerous in its nature, creating more barriers to the process of developing new and innovative projects for the State of Maryland. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many projects and efforts have been delayed. We cannot afford any more delays and creating a more complicated emergency procurement process would subsequently cause this. The system that is currently in place is sufficient enough and does not require any change or reform. We believe that this kind of legislation will cause the needs of Marylanders to go unaddressed for too long, and it is for these reasons we ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 829.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association