



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Rm 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

February 11, 2021

**RE: HB 705 – UNFAVORABLE – Transportation – I-270 and I-495 – Prohibition on Toll Lanes (Stop Unnecessary Toll Lanes Act of 2021)**

Dear Chairs Barve and McIntosh and Committee Members of Environment and Transportation and Appropriations:

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.

HB 705 would significantly encumber the State traffic relief plan by prohibiting toll lanes on I-270 and I-495. By setting this prohibition, it would lead to underfunding of projects set forth by Public-Private Partnerships (P3), thus leading to project cancelations. Currently, P3 projects are funded by revenue generated by toll lanes. If there is a prohibition on toll lanes, there is a potential that money will not be available to finance current and future projects. This will then lead to dependency on the State of Maryland for funding. As Maryland pursues its position of leading the country in transportation network advancements, it is crucial we maintain funding to continue our efforts.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 705.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Sakata  
President & CEO, MTBMA



Marshall Klinefelter  
President, MAA