

February 26th, 2021

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

RE: HB 1207 – <u>UNFAVORABLE</u> – Environment – Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities – Reform

Dear Chairman Barve 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 HB 1207. This bill is onerous in its nature, presenting significant hurdles in the pursuit of solutions, which are already effectively being sought by the current Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. At a time when we are facing an economic crisis and coping with various consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must focus our resources on the most pressing issues like our crumbling roads and highways, improving public transit options, and addressing economic disparities within Maryland. We believe it is paramount to address the problems at hand before they are inadvertently exacerbated by misguided and burdensome legislation, and it is for these reasons we ask you for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 1207.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you.

Michael Sakata

President and CEO

Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association