



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health & Government Operations Committee
Rm 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 28th, 2021

RE: HB 92 – OPPOSE – Procurement – Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species – Prohibition on Use of State Funds

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

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.

We as an industry oppose House Bill 92 – Procurement – Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species – Prohibition on Use of State Funds. By limiting the ability of the various state agencies to make their own determinations about which plant species works best in certain circumstances we are hindering their ability to make the appropriate decisions, which in turn will delay projects and add an additional layer of unnecessary approval that is not needed. Furthermore, there are certain situations where a nonnative plant might be best suited for a storm water management plan and by prohibiting those plant species these types of management plans might not function as efficiently as planned.

For the aforementioned reasons we ask you **OPPOSE HB 92** and give this piece of legislation an unfavorable report. We thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Sakata

President & CEO, MTBMA

Marshall Klinefelter

President, MAA