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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 3rd, 2021

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

RE: HB 797 – UNFAVORABLE – Procurement – Small Business Reverse Program – Administration and Application

Dear Chairman Pendergrass 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.

While we appreciate the Sponsor's intent with this legislation, we must oppose HB 797. This bill has a negative impact on businesses like ours. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to cope with various economic hurdles, and this bill would only increase that burden. HB 797 puts a significant disadvantage on our industry by prioritizing other establishments. We believe this is something that the market should dictate. Furthermore, these types of additional considerations only further delay the procurement process. We ask the Committee to consider the harmful impact this bill could have, and it is for these reasons that we ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 797.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association