



March 1, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Support – HB 1244 – State Procurement – Concrete – Preference

Dear, Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters represent more than 700 companies involved in all aspects of commercial, industrial, and mixed-use real estate. On behalf of our member companies, I am writing in support of HB 1244.

What the Bill Does –

- + HB 1244 would create a preference in state contracting for lower carbon concrete products.
- + State agencies would be required to, “give consideration and preference” to specific concrete products.
- + Preferred products would have to meet specifications set by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Why NAIOP Supports –

- + The carbon emissions reductions set by the General Assembly in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act will require significant changes to the construction and operation of buildings. In the transition to a low carbon economy, NAIOP believes the state should lead by example by adopting new construction materials and techniques before they are applied economy wide.
- + Concrete is one of the most important building materials but one of the most difficult to make low carbon. First, the manufacturing process for cement – the glue that holds concrete together - requires temperatures as high as 2,600 degrees Fahrenheit, which involves the burning of fossil fuels. Second, the chemical reaction that gives concrete the properties so important to its use generates carbon emissions. Other factors such as the time allowed for the concrete to cure and the mix of materials also play a role in determining the carbon emissions from concrete.
- + Alternative concrete manufacturing processes and installation procedures have been developed by industry groups and tested by the American Society of Testing and Materials. HB 1244 would begin introducing these products to the Maryland market in a measured way.

For these reasons, NAIOP respectfully requests your favorable report on HB 1244.

Sincerely,

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -The Association for Commercial Real Estate

cc: Health and Government Operations Committee Members
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.