

March 3rd, 2021

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair Judiciary Committee 101 House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 926 – <u>FAVORABLE</u> – Criminal Law – Homicide by Vehicle or Vessel – Penalties (Josette's Law)

Dear Chairman Clippinger 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.

We greatly appreciate the Sponsor's introduction of this bill and ask that the Committee show unwavering support for HB 926. This bill seeks to ensure that individuals who compromise the lives and safety of themselves and others on our roads receive appropriate penalties to prevent repeat offenses. Our members and employees interact with the roads system on a daily basis to carry out the essential duties of their jobs, which only increases their vulnerability to dangerous situations. By imposing heavier penalties, we incentivize safer practices on roads and railways. The safety of our employees is something we fiercely advocate for and we hope this legislation will create enough of a deterrent for drivers to operate their vehicles safely, particularly in construction zones.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 926.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata President and CEO Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association