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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 3rd, 2021

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

RE: HB 1106 – FAVORABLE – Civil Actions – Immunity From Civil Liability – COVID-19 Exposure

Dear Chairman Clippinger 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.

We greatly appreciate the Sponsor's introduction of this legislation and ask for the Committee's support of HB 1106. As we navigate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, businesses are facing unprecedented concerns of civil liability relating to virus exposure and transmission amongst the workplace. With ever-changing scientific information and evolving regulations enforced at the State, Federal, and local levels, business owners have done their best to remain in compliance at all times to ensure a safe environment. Despite these great efforts, entities are unable to control external factors regarding transmission of COVID-19, and have minimal leverage to ensure compliance by members of the public at their worksites. As we struggle to cope with the economic turmoil resulting from the pandemic, providing immunity to businesses simply doing their best is necessary for them to continue functioning, and it is for these reasons we ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1106.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association