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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 1084 – FAVORABLE – Catastrophic Health Emergencies – Immunity from Civil Liability

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 bill and ask that the Committee show unwavering support for HB 1084. This common-sense legislation would provide civil immunity for entities failing to comply with guidelines and regulations during a catastrophic health emergency, which has become an ever-present concern as we navigate the ongoing and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. During emergencies, regulations are constantly changing and often ambiguous, which only makes one's environment harder to comply with for individuals and businesses alike. We feel it is essential to ensure enhanced protections be provided to entities that are just trying to do their best during times of crisis, and it is for these reasons we ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1084.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association