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March 3, 2022

Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 994 – FAVORABLE – Public Utilities – Underground Facilities – One-Call System

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 24 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. 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.

House Bill 994 alters elements of the Maryland Public Utilities article overseeing notification procedures when persons or entities must notify the owners of nearby facilities prior to the commencement of any excavation or demolition project so that underground facilities may be clearly marked. Specifically, it would prohibit work from starting sooner than two business days after a ticket is initiated with Maryland's one-call system, also known as Miss Utility, and would require work to start no later than twelve business days after that ticket is initiated. House Bill 994 would also require the notice to include a description of the extent of the work to be done in connection with the proposed excavation or demolition.

MAA's contractors and subcontractors take on great risks when entering into contracts for construction projects that often take years to complete—sometimes lasting through the volatility of one or more economic cycles. Material costs can fluctuate greatly over this time, so any significant delays to the planned construction schedule could place our member businesses in great financial risk. House Bill 994 sets an outside date by which excavation or demolition work must begin following the notification of Miss Utility. By offering this guarantee to our contractors and subcontractors, we are better able to support our countless construction and transportation projects that are essential to the State's entire infrastructure network.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge a favorable report on House Bill 994.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marshall Klinefelter".

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association