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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 16, 2022

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 478 – FAVORABLE – Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association 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.

SB 478 adds members within skilled trade organizations and career colleges to the Career and Technical Education Committee and adds to their list of duties to develop a list of all skilled trade organization programs and career school programs in Maryland and distribute that list to public school students.

MAA strongly supports any legislation that seeks to advance careers in technical trades. As the legislation highlights, there is an extreme labor shortage happening in the United States right now and a very high demand for workers in skilled labor industries. These are high paying, high quality careers, not just jobs. We appreciate the changes this bill seeks to add that would include publishing a list of all available programs at public schools in Maryland. We must do everything we can to make students aware of these options and support their interests in pursuing careers in trade specialties and we thank the sponsors for their assistance in encouraging it as well.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this issue and we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 478.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association