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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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January 27, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 120 – UNFAVORABLE – Railroad Companies – Condemnation Authority – Application

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation 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.

House Bill 120 would exclude any company that owns or operates a railroad powered by a magnetic levitation propulsion system, commonly referred to as a Maglev train, from the general provisions of the Public Utilities Article of the Maryland Code authorizing a railroad company to acquire property by condemnation for use in the construction, operation, and upkeep of its roads or works.

This bill would impose a costly, burdensome, and unfair penalty specifically on Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail, the company that operates the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) project. SCMAGLEV is the type of transportation project that represents stable, well-paying jobs for our workers and promotes forward-thinking, transformational transportation opportunities for millions along the Northeast Corridor. This bill is an obvious attempt to block not only a source of thousands of transportation construction jobs in Maryland, but also an environmentally friendly public good for so many.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 120.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association