



March 11, 2022

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

**RE: HB 1331– UNFAVORABLE – Coal Ash – Use, Recycling, and Management (Coal Ash Recycling Act of 2022)**

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials.

House Bill 1331 requires all licensed contractors in the State to use and give preference to materials that include coal ash as a component of the material. It also requires coal ash to be included as a component in precast concrete and concrete used in forms, castings, and wind turbine foundations. Coal ash is defined as residual coal ash from the burning of coal.

Our concerns with this bill are two-fold. First, the bill uses the wrong terminology. The term coal ash is no longer used in the industry, and hasn’t been for quite a long time. Coal ash is not used directly in concrete, but must first be processed to meet standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials. Moreover, the industry already uses fly ash, which is the correct term, when it makes sense to include it in mixes. Second, we have always taken the position that the legislature should not be mandating the kinds of materials our industry should use, and feel this is best left to the experts in the field.

This bill could have unintended consequences, therefore respectfully we urge an unfavorable report on HB 1331. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association