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**MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION**



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G. Marshall Klinefelter

February 21, 2023

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Room 121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 341 – LETTER OF INQUIRY – Transportation - Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs and Transportation Improvement Programs - Equity Impacts**

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 19 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 25 contractor members, 25 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively 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 341 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and any metropolitan planning organizations to include an equity analysis for each transportation project listed in the statewide transportation improvement program or any regional transportation improvement program, respectively, along with an overall analysis of how these programs may impact low-income communities and minority communities.

MAA believes the analyses that would be required under House Bill 341 are unnecessarily duplicative because all transportation projects that trigger the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) must, under the subsequent Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, also contain an assessment of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of a proposed action or project. As a result, performing the analyses specifically required by House Bill 341 would expend much-needed Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues looking at issues that have already been studied. With a system preservation funding gap already exceeding \$4 billion, reducing the overall amount of funding in the TTF for transportation projects would only serve to make our already deteriorating roads and crumbling bridges even more dangerous.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our concerns with House Bill 341.

Sincerely,

Marshall Klinefelter  
President  
Maryland Asphalt Association