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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 1, 2023

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 822 – FAVORABLE – Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Program – High School Diplomas

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the 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.

Senate Bill 822 requires that each student within the Pathways in Technology Early College High School Program (P-TECH) receive a high school diploma from the county board immediately following completion of all high school graduation requirements, regardless of whether the student has completed the pathway sequence.

The P-TECH program is a great asset to our State. MAA supports any adjustments to the program that make it easier for students to succeed. The P-TECH program ensures students who chose the route of a career in trade will have a mentor in the industry and a paid internship. This puts them on a path to success right out of high school. These alternative pathways to college result in high-paying, high quality stable careers. We are experiencing a nationwide labor shortage and anything that can be done to encourage this path is necessary. The transportation industry would benefit greatly from the influx of a younger, highly trained workforce, and so we support this initiative.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this issue and we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 822.

Sincerely,

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

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association

