



March 1, 2023

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

RE: SB 585 – FAVORABLE – Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the 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. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

SB 585 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.

MTMBA 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 585.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", is written over a large, stylized blue flourish that extends across the page.

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association