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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 15, 2023

Senator Melony Griffith, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 356 – UNFAVORABLE – Transportation – Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Modification

Dear Chair Griffith, and Members of the Committees:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 24 contractor members, 24 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 356 expands the responsibilities of the Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Thurgood Marshall Airport and doubles the minimum annual funding that the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) must budget for projects recommended by the committee from \$1 for every takeoff and landing to \$2.

MAA believes all transportation projects being considered for funding through the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) should be judged on their individual merits with no preference shown for projects from certain areas of the state over others. MAA opposes Senate Bill 356 because it reduces the overall amount of funding in the TTF available for general transportation projects throughout the state by doubling the mandated appropriation that must be reserved specifically to fund the recommendations of the Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. With a system preservation funding gap already exceeding \$4 billion, this move would only serve to make our already deteriorating roads and crumbling bridges even more dangerous.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an UNFAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 356.

Sincerely,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association