



February 22, 2023

Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 261 – UNFAVORABLE – Public Projects – Global Warming Potential of Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act)

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk 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.

House Bill 261 requires the Department of General Services to establish a maximum acceptable global warming potential for any cement or concrete mixture used in the construction of a public project.

MTBMA appreciates the sponsor's intent and laudable goals with this legislation, but at this current juncture we cannot support it. We strongly feel that the market should dictate the types of materials needed for construction projects. If these vague determinations are set, we have serious concerns that it will make it nearly impossible to adhere to. Setting preferences also pits producers against each other, giving an unfair advantage to those that meet the requirements. Additionally, we are unsure why this program will reside within the Department of General Services, and not with the Department of Transportation (MDOT). Should this bill pass, we firmly believe it needs to be housed within MDOT, who is better suited to make these determinations about the construction industry.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 261.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association