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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 20, 2024

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

RE: HB 764 – UNFAVORABLE – State Lottery Fund – Bus Rapid Transit Fund Distribution – Alteration

Dear Chair Barnes 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.

House Bill 764 removes limitations on distributing funds from the State Lottery to the Bus Rapid Transit Fund, reallocating \$27 Million annually for rapid bus transit system grants.

MAA opposes this legislation because it is unfair and unjustifiable to prioritize funding for bus rapid transit at the expense of other critical transportation needs. While we acknowledge the importance of investing in public transit, the bill exacerbates existing disparities and neglects the broader transportation network's maintenance and improvement requirements. If the State deems it appropriate to draw from the State Lottery Fund for bus rapid transit initiatives, then it should also consider similar measures for the Transportation Trust Fund. By ensuring equitable distribution of resources across all transportation sectors, we can better address the pressing infrastructure challenges facing Maryland and foster sustainable growth and development.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 764

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim E. Smith, P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association