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**MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION**



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Paul Bramble  
SECRETARY:  
Curtis Hall  
PRESIDENT:  
Tim Smith

February 21, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 921 – FAVORABLE – State Finance and Procurement – Retention Proceeds**

Dear Chair Guzzone 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.

This bill would greatly benefit our industry by providing a reliable and secure process of payment for our members, allowing us to more effectively serve the State of Maryland. Under current law, our contractors and subcontractors often take on burdensome costs that are harmful to their functioning as a business, and adding the economic effects of the budget deficits to the transportation program on top of that have created a difficult environment to operate and flourish in. By offering timely assurance of payments to our contractors and subcontractors, we are better able to support our State's countless construction and transportation projects that are essential to our infrastructure network as a whole.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 921.

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