



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

RE: Testimony in Support of MD SB 384 – Carbon Capture Opportunity Program
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Feldman:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 384 – Carbon Capture Opportunity Program. Additionally, we would like to thank Senator Lewis Young for sponsoring this legislation. Heidelberg Materials is a leading supplier of construction materials in North America. Our core activities include the production of cement and aggregates, as well as producing ready-mixed concrete, asphalt, and other downstream cement products. The Union Bridge, MD plant dates to 1909 and Heidelberg Materials has supplied the cement supporting Maryland's critical infrastructure needs since 1911. The Union Bridge plant employs approximately 165 people year-round.

Cement is the primary ingredient in concrete, the world's most consumed building material behind water, which has a long-proven value as a durable, cost-effective, available material that is resistant to extreme temperatures and resilient against natural disasters. Concrete remains critical to Maryland's infrastructure due to its versatility, durability, resiliency, strength, and its ability to enable construction that is more sustainable.

Heidelberg Materials is committed to supporting Maryland's carbon emissions reduction targets and has already made significant reductions by transitioning to producing EcoCem PLC™, a portland limestone cement (PLC) that directly lowers the carbon intensity of our cement product, which in turn, translates to carbon intensity reductions across the cement and concrete value chain. As an innovative leader in sustainability as well as an important part of the Maryland community, we will continue to be an engaged partner with Maryland as we work together to reduce State carbon emissions.

Heidelberg Materials is a leader in the development and use of resilient construction materials and sustainable construction practices and has also formalized its commitment to, and is working diligently toward, achieving carbon neutral concrete by 2050 at the latest. It is important to note that cement manufacturing is energy-intensive and requires significant fuel in the manufacturing process. Fuel optimization is a critical component in reducing CO₂ emissions. Additionally, a key piece that sets this industry apart from others is that approximately 65% of CO₂ emissions result from calcination, which is the essential step in the cement manufacturing process.

We are also developing new technologies that reduce our CO₂ footprint on a large scale, especially targeting those emissions that cannot be mitigated in full. Therefore, we are investing in different carbon capture technologies, aiming to trap CO₂ in its purest form to either utilize or safely store it. Such technology development is challenging, and Heidelberg Materials believes that partnership among government, industry, and academic institutions will be key to successful implementation in an effective and economical manner.



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Heidelberg Materials supports SB 384 because collaboration, support and advocacy on the part of the State is essential to successfully accessing and deploying federal funding. Additionally, it is critical to leverage available state funding to not only advance near-term solutions that yield significant benefits through real reductions in GHG, but to accelerate the adoption of longer-term technologies and strategies that ultimately will enable essential industries like cement manufacturing to fully decarbonize while supporting long-term economic prosperity for Maryland.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to express our support for SB 384.