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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 4, 2024

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

RE: SB 96 – UNFAVORABLE – Environment – Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions

Dear Chair Korman 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.

Senate Bill 96 proposes measures to evaluate and address the impact of issuing environmental permits and state agency actions on climate and environmental justice in Maryland. It requires the Department of the Environment to conduct evaluations, assessments, extensive reporting, and community notifications as a part of the permitting process.

MAA opposes this legislation because the new provisions will significantly prolong the already lengthy permitting process. This will cause a significant administrative burden, and will further prolong critical infrastructure projects. While we appreciate the intention of the bill to enhance environmental oversight, we believe it will stifle economic growth without providing meaningful and practical environmental benefits.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report Senate Bill 96.

Sincerely,

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

Tim Smith, P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association