



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 Feldman 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.

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.

MTBMA 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 on Senate Bill 96.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Sakata', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association