

February 22, 2024

STATEMENT OF
THE TIRE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 781
BEFORE THE
MARYLAND HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
ROOM 231
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Dear Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I submit this statement on behalf of more than 300 Maryland businesses affiliated with the Tire Industry Association (TIA). TIA, as an international non-profit, represents all facets of the tire industry, aiming to advance tire safety through education, serve as a primary advocate in government affairs, and enhance the industry's overall professionalism.

Headquartered in Bowie, Maryland, TIA boasts a global membership exceeding 13,000 and is recognized as a leader in tire service technician training, having educated over 180,000 individuals since 1997.

We wholeheartedly endorse House Bill 781, which supports the integration of Rubber Modified Asphalt (RMA) in road construction. Our testimony underscores the manifold advantages of this innovative approach, focusing on environmental sustainability, potential state cost savings, elevated road quality, seamless integration with existing construction equipment, and significant carbon footprint reduction.

1. Environmental Stewardship:

Rubber Modified Asphalt makes substantial contributions to waste reduction by incorporating recycled rubber from tires into the asphalt mix, alleviating landfill pressure and addressing environmental concerns related to tire disposal.

2. Financial Benefits for the State:

House Bill 781's endorsement of RMA aligns with a financially prudent approach to infrastructure development. The use of recycled rubber in asphalt holds the potential for considerable cost savings



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for the state, with the durability of RMA-infused roads leading to reduced maintenance and repair expenses.

3. Enhanced Road Durability:

Rubber Modified Asphalt showcases superior performance, offering enhanced road quality and durability. Its flexibility and resilience allow roads to withstand heavy traffic, temperature fluctuations, and environmental factors, ensuring safer and more reliable infrastructure.

4. Seamless Integration with Construction Equipment:

RMA's versatility allows for a smooth integration into standard construction practices, requiring minimal modifications to existing equipment. This facilitates a practical and feasible transition for construction companies.

5. Carbon Footprint Reduction and Climate Responsibility:

Adopting Rubber Modified Asphalt plays a pivotal role in reducing carbon footprints and mitigating climate change. By incorporating recycled rubber, it diverts tire waste from landfills and diminishes the need for virgin materials, resulting in a lower carbon footprint compared to traditional asphalt production.

In conclusion, the Tire Industry Association strongly advocates for the favorable consideration of House Bill 781. Embracing Rubber Modified Asphalt aligns with sustainable practices, offering economic benefits to the state while actively contributing to environmental conservation and resilient infrastructure development.

Thank you for your attentive consideration.

Sincerely,

Dick Gust
CEO
Tire Industry Association



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