

Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chairman Ways and Means Committee Room 131, House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Hon. Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair Ways and Means Committee Room 131, House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Organization: The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD)

Bill: HB955 - Motor Fuel Tax Rates - Consumer Price Index Adjustment - Repeal

Position: Oppose

Chairperson Atterbeary and Vice-Chair Wilkins,

The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD) is the representative organization for approximately 90 consulting engineering firms of various sizes across the state. These firms play a crucial role in serving both the public and private sectors by actively participating in the design and development of essential infrastructure such as public water and wastewater systems, bridges, highways, building structures, and environmental projects.

Our organization's member firms collectively employ approximately 7,000 individuals statewide, and approximately forty percent of ACEC/MD's membership is comprised of certified small, minority-owned, or women-owned businesses, reflecting our commitment to diversity and inclusion within the engineering industry. We respectfully **Oppose** this bill.

With the projected shortfall in transportation funding over the coming years, it's imperative that we develop additional funding sources to ensure the safety and reliability of Maryland's transportation sectors, and to not reduce funding sources. By repealing the CPI increase to the motor fuel tax this bill puts an even larger strain on Maryland's transportation funding situation, and for that reason, we oppose this bill.

For any comments, inquiries, or further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at cfaison@acecmd.org.

Respectfully,

Chad Faison
Executive Director

ACEC/MD