



February 22, 2024

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 781 – UNFAVORABLE – Transportation – State Highways – Rubber Modified Asphalt

Dear Chair Korman 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.

House Bill 781 requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to use rubber modified asphalt in the construction, reconstruction and repair of all state highways. SHA shall consider the use of various types of rubber modified asphalt while planning, including those produced by the wet process and the dry process.

Respectfully, MTBMA must oppose this legislation. Our Association has always and continues to maintain a position that legislatively mandated engineering and material selection decisions are improper and those decisions must be left up to the experts to decide. Instead, we recommend allowing SHA, the asphalt industry, and material suppliers to partner together to arrive at a solution that helps the environment without sacrificing performance. This bill limits future opportunities to introduce other environmentally beneficial materials as well as gain improved efficiency with our plant energy consumption.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 781.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or background.

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association