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February 8, 2024

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

RE: HB 278 – FAVORABLE – Urban State Highways – Speed Limits – Exceptions

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.

House Bill 278 grants the State Highway Administration the authority to reduce the maximum speed limit by 5 miles per hour on certain urban State highways without the need for an engineering and traffic investigation.

MAA supports this legislation because it will take necessary action in improving road safety. The ability of the State Highway Administration to adjust speed limits based on current conditions without the bureaucratic hurdles of a full investigation will provide the necessary flexibility to address road safety concerns promptly. HB 278 will be an important step in aligning with the Maryland Work Zone Safety Group's recommendations, thus contributing to a more secure and efficient transportation network for all Marylanders.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 278.

Sincerely,

Tim E. Smith, P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association