

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 respectfully submit this statement on behalf of over 300 Maryland businesses that are members of the Tire Industry Association (TIA).

The Tire Industry Association is an international non-profit association representing all segments of the tire industry, including those that manufacture, repair, recycle, sell, service or use new or retreaded tires, and also those suppliers or individuals who furnish equipment, material or services to the industry.

The mission of TIA is to promote tire safety through training and education, to act as the principal advocate in government affairs and to enhance the image and professionalism of the industry so that our member businesses may be more successful.

TIA has more than 13,000 members from all 50 states and around the globe. As the industry leader in tire service technician training, TIA has educated more than 180,000 people since 1997.

The Tire Industry Association is headquartered in Bowie, Maryland.

TIA strongly supports House Bill 781, which advocates for the implementation of Rubber Modified Asphalt (RMA) in road construction projects.

Our written testimony aims to shed light on the myriad benefits associated with this innovative approach, emphasizing its environmental sustainability, potential cost savings for the state, improved road infrastructure, the feasibility of integration with existing construction equipment, and carbon footprint reduction and climate mitigation.

**1. Environmental Benefits:**

Rubber Modified Asphalt is renowned for its positive environmental impact. By incorporating recycled rubber from tires into the asphalt mix, this approach significantly contributes to waste reduction and promotes the circular economy. The reuse of discarded tires in road construction not only reduces landfill pressure but also addresses the environmental concerns associated with tire disposal.

**2. Cost Savings for the State:**

House Bill 781's endorsement of RMA aligns with a fiscally responsible approach to infrastructure development. The use of recycled rubber in asphalt has the potential to result in



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considerable cost savings for the state. The durability and longevity of RMA-infused roads could lead to reduced maintenance and repair costs, ultimately benefiting the state's budget.

### 3. Improved Road Quality:

Rubber Modified Asphalt has demonstrated enhanced performance in terms of road quality and durability. The flexibility and resilience of RMA contribute to roads that can better withstand the impact of heavy traffic, fluctuations in temperature, and other environmental factors. This, in turn, leads to safer and more reliable road infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

### 4. Minimal Modifications for Existing Construction Equipment:

An essential consideration in the adoption of any new construction material is its compatibility with existing equipment. RMA's versatility allows for a seamless integration into standard construction practices, requiring minimal modifications to the existing equipment. This ensures a smooth transition for construction companies, making the implementation of RMA a practical and feasible choice.

### 5. Carbon Footprint Reduction and Climate Mitigation:

An additional pivotal advantage of adopting Rubber Modified Asphalt (RMA) is its role in carbon footprint reduction and climate mitigation. The incorporation of recycled rubber in asphalt not only diverts tire waste from landfills but also diminishes the need for virgin materials in road construction. This results in a lower carbon footprint compared to traditional asphalt production processes. Moreover, RMA's reflective properties contribute to cooler road surfaces, reducing the urban heat island effect. By embracing RMA, we align with sustainable practices that actively combat climate change, making it a crucial element in the broader strategy for environmentally conscious and resilient infrastructure development.

In conclusion, the Tire Industry Association strongly encourages the favorable consideration of House Bill 781, recognizing the numerous advantages associated with Rubber Modified Asphalt.

As an industry committed to sustainable practices and innovation, we believe that the adoption of RMA will not only benefit the state economically but also contribute significantly to environmental conservation and the development of robust and resilient road infrastructure. **Rubber modified asphalt Performs better, Cost less and is good for the Environment!**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roy Littlefield IV  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Tire Industry Association



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