



Maryland Motor Truck Association

9256 Bendix Road, Suite 203, Columbia, MD 21045

Phone: 410-644-4600 Fax: 410-644-2537



HEARING DATE: February 27, 2024

BILL NO/TITLE: Senate Bill 681: Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects - Impact Assessments and Mitigation Plans (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024)

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **Oppose**

As the trade association representing trucking companies that regularly travel throughout the state and deliver products to citizens in every jurisdiction in Maryland, the Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) urges the Committee to consider the negative impacts SB681 will have on our region's congestion mitigation efforts.

Safe and reliable truck movements form the backbone of economic growth in the United States. Motor carriers are directly affected by congestion through increased operating costs. Traffic congestion results in wasted fuel, higher labor costs, less safety, greater vehicle wear and tear, and delayed delivery times. According to the American Transportation Research Institute, the cost of congestion to the trucking industry is at its highest level to date. In 2021, the annual cost of congestion to the industry reached an all-time high of \$94.6 billion, up from \$74.5 billion in 2016. On the National Highway System alone, delays and congestion cost commercial truck drivers 1.26 billion hours. **This lost productivity is the equivalent of 460,716 commercial truck drivers sitting idle in traffic without moving for an entire working year.**

The passage of this legislation will only serve to limit the state's ability to meaningfully address our congestion challenges by effectively eliminating large highway capacity expansion projects. For those reasons MMTA asks for an unfavorable report.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to support, advocate and educate for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry in Maryland.

For further information, contact: Louis Campion, (c) 443-623-4223