

March 5th, 2024

Senator Pam Beidle, Chair Senate Finance Committee 3 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 845 – <u>UNFAVORABLE</u> – Workers' Compensation – Temporary Partial Disability – Concurrent Employment

Dear Chair Beidle 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.

Senate Bill 845 proposes changes to workers' compensation laws regarding temporary partial disability benefits for workers with concurrent employment. It requires employers to compensate such workers if they are temporarily disabled from their primary job but can still work at a concurrent job, at a higher rate.

MTBMA opposes this legislation because it poses significant challenges and burdens for employers in our industry. The requirement to pay compensation for temporarily disabled workers with concurrent employment places undue financial strain on employers, notably smaller operations grappling with increased costs. The eligibility criteria outlined in the bill are vague and open to interpretation, leading to potential inconsistencies and disputes in determining who qualifies for compensation. This ambiguity creates uncertainty for employers and could result in increased administrative burdens and expenses associated with claims processing and dispute resolution.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 845.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata President and CEO

Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association