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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 28th, 2024

Senator William Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 768 – FAVORABLE – Vehicle Laws – Lanes of Travel – Slower Traffic and Overtaking and Passing (Highway Left Lane Safety Act)

Dear Chair Smith 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.

Senate Bill 768 aims to extend the requirement for drivers traveling slower than the general speed of traffic to keep right on all roadways in Maryland. On roadways with three or more lanes and a posted maximum speed limit of 55 miles or more, the left lane should be used solely for overtaking and passing other vehicles.

MAA supports this legislation, as its requirements address roadway issues that often lead to congestion, frustration, and most importantly, unsafe driving conditions. Encouraging slower drivers to stay in the right-hand lanes will facilitate smoother traffic flow, reduce lane weaving, and minimize the risk of accidents caused by abrupt lane changes. By enacting the Highway Left Lane Safety Act, Maryland can significantly reduce the risk of road collisions, enhance traffic efficiency, and promote responsible driving among motorists.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 768.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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