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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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January 24, 2024

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
101 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 207 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – Motor Vehicles – Reckless Driving and Aggressive Driving – Penalties

Dear Chair Clippinger 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 207 would revise the penalties for reckless and aggressive driving, adding imprisonment up to thirty days for a first violation and a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment up to 90 days for subsequent offenses.

MAA fully supports legislation directed at increasing road safety, but respectfully requests an amendment to be added to House Bill 207 that includes "increasing penalties for speeding in a work zone." This amendment will align with the Moore Administration's established priority to improve work zone safety in Maryland. In light of recent tragic events, such as the devastating accident on I-695 that claimed the lives of six construction workers, taking concrete measures to ensure work zone safety is critical.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request on House Bill 207.

Sincerely,

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