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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 4th, 2025

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 578 – UNFAVORABLE – Procurement – Department of Transportation and Maryland Transportation Authority Contracts – Board of Public Works Authority

Dear Chair Barnes, Chair Korman and Members of the Committees:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) represents approximately 120 members, including 20 material producers and 100 contractors, engineering firms, and associate members, supporting a 7,000-person workforce. MAA actively collaborates with regulatory agencies to advocate for the asphalt industry, ensuring fair regulations at both the state and federal levels. Additionally, we support adequate funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 578 would give the Board of Public Works (BPW) authority and approval on procurement contracts within the Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority over \$500,000. Currently, these agencies have more direct control over their contracts. This bill would limit their independent decision-making, possibly leading to inefficiencies and complications in managing transportation infrastructure projects.

Passage of this legislation would introduce additional layers of approval, leading to delays in project execution. If more projects require BPW approval, the timeline for securing funding and starting construction may be prolonged, affecting project schedules and profitability for contractors. If procurement processes become more politicized or subject to changing priorities of the BPW, contractors may face uncertainty in bidding and executing contracts, affecting their ability to plan for long-term investments in labor and equipment. Lastly, if the approval process becomes more cumbersome, smaller construction firms that rely on steady contract flow may face financial strain due to unpredictable project timelines.

For these reasons, we ask that you vote UNFAVORABLE on House Bill 578.

Sincerely,

Tim Smith, P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association