

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 Miller West Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: MBIA Letter of Opposition SB881 - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities

Dear Chairman Guzzone,

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB881 Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities**. MBIA **opposes** the Act in its current version.

SB881 establishes three new regional transportation authorities for the Baltimore region, Capital region, and Southern Maryland region, each designed to develop and implement transportation plans for their respective areas. These authorities will be formed with members including county executives, local elected officials, state legislators, and transportation experts, and will have powers to prepare regional transportation plans, recommend transportation priorities, oversee regional transportation issues, and seek funding.

The concern from the industry is how the transportation funds in the proposed bill will be financed, which calls for new surcharges, 0.5 percent sales tax surcharge. Adding surcharges at a time when goods are skyrocketing is not going to incentivize consumers to spend more.

These surcharges will only add to the bottom-line costs of goods, regulation and high cost are synonymous with the state of Maryland. Economic development should be the focus, looking at ways to create new commercial tax bases as opposed to adding to the cost of an already high state to live and conduct business in.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully urges the Committee to give this measure **a un favorable** report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee