



The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
February 27, 2025

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 882 – COAL TRANSPORTATION FEE AND FOSSIL FUEL MITIGATION FUND (COAL DUST CLEANUP AND ASTHMA REMEDIATION ACT)

The Maryland Ready-Mix Concrete Association, Inc. (MRMCA) is the state trade association for ready mix concrete and cement producers who create many of the essential materials and products needed to build Maryland's physical infrastructure. Production of some of these materials, particularly the cement needed for major structures like bridges and tunnels, rely on coal for their manufacturing processes as it is one of the few fuels that burns hot enough to create strong and effective building materials. Due to that dependence on coal as a unique fuel source, these producers will be significantly impacted by the fees proposed in Senate Bill 882. There are several aspects of the proposed bill that cause concern:

- The additional fee placed on coal transported through the State will inevitably be passed through the end users of those materials, leading to higher costs and prices for materials that rely on coal for production;
- High pricing for materials produced in Maryland makes those products less competitive with producers in other states and countries, many of which do not have the same environmental protections Maryland does like (1) Environmental Product Declarations (EPD), (2) emission controls, and (3) Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS). The bill will essentially direct purchases to out-of-state producers that do not provide economic benefits for Maryland and contribute more to global environmental concerns;
- Maryland, through its procurement processes, is one of the largest purchasers of cement and other building materials that require coal for production. State agencies engaging in capital procurement will have to choose between higher cost Maryland products or going out of state to meet their construction materials needs.

MRMCA and its members are proud of their partnership with the State to reduce their emissions and become some of the cleanest producers and manufacturers of these essential products and remain committed to those efforts. SB882 would add another unavoidable cost burden on local producers and, instead, incentivizes increased reliance by both public and private purchasers on less clean manufacturers in other jurisdictions. For these reasons, MRMCA respectfully urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 882.