

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Environment & Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: MBIA Letter of Opposition HB1370 - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities**

Dear Chairman Korman,

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 1370 Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities**. MBIA **opposes** the Act in its current version.

HB1370 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 a already high state to live and conduct business in.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully urges the Committee to give this measure **a 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](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee