

March 7, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman Chairman of the Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
250 Taylor House Office Building
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman, Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the potential impacts of House Bill 1088, the "Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act," on the economy and livelihood of Western Maryland. If enacted, this legislation would impose a \$13 per ton coal transportation fee, which would have devastating consequences for the region.

Tri-Star Mining, Inc. is a proud employer in Western Maryland, with over 50 dedicated employees who rely on the coal industry for their livelihoods. Our company is a significant contributor to the local economy, and in 2024 alone, the industry contributed substantially through tax revenues and wages, including:

- Allegany Coal Tax: \$43,560.20
- Garrett County Coal Tax: \$28,143.83
- Payroll Wages: \$3,158,158.54
- Maryland Withholding Taxes: \$177,260.93

The proposed coal transportation fee would place an immense financial burden on businesses like ours, forcing us to absorb increased costs that we simply cannot sustain. This would inevitably lead to layoffs, facility closures, and the decimation of the region's economy.


Furthermore, the effect of this legislation does not stop with our company or the coal industry alone. The economic hardship will extend to the many vendors, contractors, trucking companies, equipment suppliers, and local businesses that depend on our operations. These businesses form the backbone of our community, and their survival is directly tied to the stability of the coal industry. The negative consequences will ripple through Western Maryland, impacting families, communities, and local governments that rely on the tax revenue and economic activity generated by coal-related industries.

It is crucial to recognize that the Western Maryland economy has already faced significant challenges in recent years, with the region often overlooked compared to more urban areas of the

state. Imposing an additional financial burden on the region's core industries would be a devastating blow that many businesses and workers may not be able to withstand.

I urge you to carefully consider the far-reaching impact that House Bill 1088 would have on the economy and livelihoods of Western Maryland and oppose this legislation introduced by Delegate Stein. Thank you for your dedication to the region's workers, businesses, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Holly" and last name "Newman" clearly legible.

Holly Newman, Corporate Secretary
Tri-Star Mining, Inc.