



March 3, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Maryland Midland Railway, Inc. Opposition to SB 855

Chairwoman Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Joe Arbona, Assistant Vice President of Government Affairs for the Maryland Midland Railway, Inc. (MMID) and I am writing in opposition to SB 855, the Railroads - Safety Requirements or Maryland Railway Safety Act of 2025.

As one of Maryland's short line railroads, the MMID would be negatively impacted by many of the provisions of this bill.

The MMID is an 81-mile short line railroad operating from Highfield to Emory Grove and from Taneytown to Woodsboro. Among our shippers are Lehigh Cement in Union Bridge, Laurel Sand & Gravel in Woodsboro, NVR and Structural LLC in Thurmont, Glen Gery Brick in Rocky Ridge. It plays a key transportation role in rural parts of the state.

The language around crew size in SB 855 is broad and does not address the differences in operations and staffing capacity between short line and large Class I railroads. Some of the other provisions in the bill will have a negative impact on the MMID, particularly the provision for railroads to allow union representatives to investigate railroad operations is very problematic and redundant.

Labor union membership does not guarantee expertise to inspect railroads. That is a task currently carried out by expert inspectors of the Federal Railroad Administration.

For these reasons, the MMID respectfully asks for an unfavorable report on SB 855.

Sincerely,

Joe Arbona
Assistant Vice President
Maryland Midland Railway



a Genesee & Wyoming Company