



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

February 4, 2026

RE: SB 318 – UNFAVORABLE – State Capital Program - Covered Projects - Public Engagement and Community Outreach Requirements (Community Engagement and Outreach Act of 2026)

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) represents approximately 110+ members, including 20 material producers, contractors, engineering firms, and associate members, supporting a 7,000-person workforce. MAA actively collaborates with regulatory agencies to advocate for the asphalt industry, ensuring fair regulations at both the state and federal levels. Additionally, we support adequate funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 318 would require state agencies proposing certain capital projects to develop extensive community engagement and outreach plans before a project may proceed. These plans would mapping affected areas, identifying environmental and public health considerations, and meeting detailed outreach and notice requirements.

Respectfully, MAA opposes SB 318 because we have concerns these mandates would add additional procedural hurdles to already complex capital projects, resulting in delays and increase administrative burdens. The requirements could be used to stall or cancel critical infrastructure investments that are essential to public safety and economic vitality. The Department of Transportation already conducts outreach for major projects, and SB 318 risks duplicating or conflicting with existing processes. This would divert limited agency resources away from project delivery and construction.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim Smith'.

Tim E. Smith, P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association