

February 25, 2026

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

RE: Opposition SB 59 Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB59**. MBIA is submitting testimony in opposition to this legislation requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to conduct additional impact assessments and develop corresponding multimodal transportation programs for certain major highway expansion projects, as well as to evaluate major capital projects for greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled impacts as part of the Consolidated Transportation Program.

While we appreciate the intent to align transportation planning with environmental and climate goals, this bill would create significant new procedural requirements that risk delaying urgently needed infrastructure improvements. Major highway expansion projects are already subject to extensive federal and State environmental review, including detailed analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other regulatory frameworks. Layering additional State-mandated assessments and programmatic requirements on top of existing processes will increase costs, extend timelines, and create uncertainty for projects that address congestion, safety, and economic growth.

Maryland faces substantial transportation infrastructure needs, particularly in high-growth areas where roadway capacity has not kept pace with residential and commercial development. Delaying or complicating improvements to major corridors will exacerbate congestion, increase commute times, and undermine the movement of goods and services that are critical to the State's economy. Ironically, prolonged congestion itself contributes to increased emissions and vehicle idling.

We support thoughtful, data-driven transportation planning that balances mobility, environmental stewardship, and economic competitiveness. However, this legislation imposes rigid mandates that could hinder timely project delivery and strain already limited resources.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report. For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee