



Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 3, 2026

RE: HB 894 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – Land Use – Transit-Oriented Development – Alterations (Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act)

Dear Chair Valderrama, Chair Korman, and Members of the Committees:

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.

Our concerns with this bill pertain to the last page of the bill which includes a provision that adds Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) as a scoring preference for transit-oriented development projects. While PLAs are not mandated, tying them to funding decisions raises concerns about fairness, competition, and cost, and risks narrowing participation in State-supported projects.

MAA has always prided itself on being “Pro-Competition.” Since we have both union and non-union members, we have always stressed that having policies that create labor disharmony among contractors, prohibits fair and equitable competition. PLAs impose significant administrative and capital burdens on participating contractors, which disproportionately impact minority business enterprises, women business enterprises, veteran business enterprises and small business firms, or even exclude them from participation entirely. Additionally, PLAs eliminate the benefits that a smaller, but more versatile contractor could bring to a project.

We would respectfully request this provision is removed from HB 89489. With that, this is something we would happily support.

Sincerely,

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