



Senator Brian J. Feldman  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 3, 2026

**RE: SB 688 – UNFAVORABLE – Environment – Stream and Floodplain Restoration Projects  
– Requirements and Limitations**

Dear Chair Feldman 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 688 would require the Department of the Environment (MDE) to prioritize certain practices when carrying out duties relating to stormwater management. The bill implements limits on when and how stream or floodplain restoration projects can be used to satisfy environmental requirements. Additionally, the bill will change responsibilities for how MDE reviews and assesses restoration projects.

MAA opposes SB 688 because the tighter restrictions for stormwater management will increase costs, reduce flexibility, and impose additional hurdles on infrastructure and paving projects. By narrowing the circumstances under which stream restoration projects may be used to satisfy permit requirements, SB 688 removes an important compliance option without providing clear, workable alternatives. The bill will slow permitting and create uncertainty for projects and our contractors. This one-size-fits-all mandate may not fit local conditions or available technologies. MAA values efficiency and this bill, if passed, will drastically slow our development. Restricting flexibility at the State level could limit the ability of engineers and project designers to select the most practical and cost-effective compliance methods for a given project.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 688.

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

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