



Delegate Mark Korman, Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
250-251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2026

**RE: HB 817 – UNFAVORABLE – Carbon Removal Technology and Practices – Regulations and Use of Funding**

Dear Chair Korman 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.

House Bill 817 requires the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations governing the permitting of certain carbon removal technologies and practices that are certified by an internationally recognized third-party certification body. The bill also requires each State agency to use available funding sources to support carbon removal projects utilizing these certified technologies and practices.

MAA opposes HB 817 because the bill creates a broad and undefined mandate requiring each State agency to use available funding sources to support carbon removal projects, without clearly limiting the scope, funding source, or priority relative to the agency's core mission. For transportation agencies, this could create pressure to direct limited resources away from critical roadway construction and maintenance projects that are already facing significant funding constraints. At a time when the Transportation Trust Fund is strained and project delays are a growing concern, introducing an additional funding obligation risks complicating budgeting decisions and prolonging infrastructure delivery. While environmental innovation is important, policies that impose open-ended funding requirements on State agencies should be carefully evaluated to avoid unintended impacts on Maryland's transportation system and the thousands of workers it supports. For these reasons, MAA respectfully urges the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 817.

Sincerely,

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

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