



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

February 18, 2026

**RE: HB 517 – UNFAVORABLE – Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management – Local Authority**

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 517 would allow counties or other local subdivision to set higher environmental thresholds than what the State requires, so long as it is “technically possible” for a regulated entity to comply with both the State and local standard.

MAA respectfully opposes this bill because allowing individual counties to adopt differing emission and air quality standards will result in a patchwork of conflicting requirements that complicate compliance, increase costs, and disrupt project delivery timelines. Not to mention, our industry is already subject to comprehensive state and federal environmental standards designed to ensure consistent air quality protections, while allowing us to operate efficiently. Our members often serve multiple jurisdictions. Under this bill, they could be held to different emission standards when supplying projects across county boundaries, placing undue administrative and compliance burden on our companies. Lastly, the standard the bill creates using “technically possible” as to whether someone can comply with both is highly subjective and problematic.

MAA supports strong environmental protection and compliance with science-based emission standards, but this bill is not the answer. We ask for an unfavorable report on House Bill 517.

Sincerely,

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