



Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 11, 2026

RE: SB 539 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – Department of Social and Economic Mobility - Workforce Opportunities Grant Program and Fund

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 250 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 539 establishes the Workforce Opportunities Grant Program within the Department of Social and Economic Mobility to provide competitive grants to nonprofit organizations, local workforce boards, and partnerships that include employers and community stakeholders. The Program is designed to support the planning and execution of job fairs and workforce events across the State.

MTBMA appreciates legislation like SB 539, but respectfully asks that the Program prioritize events that address high-demand industries, including transportation infrastructure, construction trades, engineering, logistics, and public works, to ensure that Maryland’s workforce development efforts align with the State’s economic and infrastructure needs. By targeting these industries, the Program can maximize impact and support the pipeline of skilled workers critical to Maryland’s ongoing growth and competitiveness.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", written in a cursive style.

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association