



Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 6, 2026

**RE: HB 1173 – UNFAVORABLE – State Procurement – Contractors and Vendors –
Restrictions on Use of State Funds and Resources**

Dear Chair Wells 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.

House Bill 1173 would prohibit contractors and vendors performing work for the State from using public funds or resources to influence employees regarding support for, opposition to, or membership in a union or employee organization, and from providing assistance to others for campaigns opposing employees’ union representation or collective bargaining rights. The bill applies these restrictions to contractors’ and vendors’ own employees, subcontractor employees, and any person acting on their behalf.

MTBMA opposes HB 1173 because the bill does not clearly define what constitutes “anti-union activities” and could create significant uncertainty and unintended compliance risks for contractors and vendors working with the State. Maryland’s construction and transportation industry relies on clear and predictable rules for workforce management and contract administration. Expanding restrictions without precise definitions may expose companies to legal or administrative challenges for ordinary business practices and create disincentives for contractors to bid on state projects. For these reasons, MTBMA respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 1173.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association