



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

February 26, 2026

RE: HB 1070 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – Department of Social and Economic Mobility – Workforce Opportunities Grant Program and Fund

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 1070 would establish the Workforce Opportunities Grant Program within the Department of Social and Economic Mobility to support the planning and execution of workforce events and job fairs across the State. The bill creates a dedicated, nonlapsing Workforce Opportunities Grant Fund to award competitive grants to eligible organizations that connect job seekers with employers from multiple industries and regions. HB 1070 also includes reporting requirements to track participation and job placement outcomes, ensuring transparency and accountability.

MTBMA supports HB 1070 because it creates a practical, data-driven mechanism to strengthen Maryland’s workforce pipeline at a time when employers across the transportation and construction sectors face persistent labor shortages. Workforce events supported through this Program will help connect job seekers with sustainable careers while supporting industries that are critical to the State’s economic growth and infrastructure delivery.

MTBMA respectfully asks for the following amendment: to prioritize workforce events that address high-demand industries in the State, including transportation infrastructure, construction trades, engineering, logistics, and public works, ensuring that grant funding is aligned with Maryland’s most pressing workforce needs. We appreciate your consideration of our requested amendment on House Bill 1070.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association