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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 5, 2020

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

OPPOSE

Re: **HOUSE BILL 1249 – I-495 AND I-270 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP – PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT – REQUIREMENTS (MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROMISES ACT OF 2020)**

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Asphalt Association is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 21 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 39 other associate members. We proactively work with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

HB 1249 calls for a mandate on how funds generated from toll lanes on I-495 and I-270 will be allocated. The bill calls for 10% of toll revenue from these highways to be distributed to a special fund, and the money within that fund can only be used for transit projects that comply with memorandums of understanding between the Department of Transportation and the governing bodies of the counties where the toll facilities are located. If the counties do not see the importance of a particular project, they can deny the use of the funds. This will ultimately grant counties more power than the State, lead to dependency on the State for funding, and may impede impactful development that would positively affect the greater good of Maryland.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1249.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President

Maryland Asphalt Association