

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition of 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:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes House Bill 1249 (I-495 and I-270 Public-Private Partnership - Partnership Agreement - Requirements (Maryland State Department of Transportation Promises Act of 2020)).

This measure, in addition to many other requirements, would prohibit the Maryland State Department of Transportation (MDOT) from submitting a contract for a public-private partnership (P3) to the Board of Public Works without a final environmental impact statement that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act is submitted and available.

P3 projects were intended to ease traffic congestion, which is at a critical point in areas like Montgomery County and Prince George's County. However, P3 projects will likely be delayed under this measure due to the additional environmental study requirements. More studies result in higher costs due to inflation and extended payment windows. This measure will be expensive for both MDE and private entities, and traffic and quality of life in congested counties will continue to degenerate.

MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt this amendment and give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members