



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environ. Affairs Comm.
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 25, 2021

RE: SB 188 - UNFAVORABLE - State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Dear Members of the Budget and Taxation and Education, Health and Environ. Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) and the Maryland Asphalt Association (“MAA”) collectively represent tens of thousands of Marylanders who operate in the areas of transportation construction, production and engineering. Together, for nearly 100 years these organizations have served as the voice of the transportation construction industry. The mission of both MTBMA and MAA is to encourage, develop, and protect 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 also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

The passage of SB188 could put the future of the Northeast Maglev project at risk and we are strongly against this bill. This project is critical to the future of our region’s transportation industry and our greater economic development as a region. At a time when unemployment rates are at alarming highs, this project will bring thousands of jobs to the State. Not only would this project transform the transportation system in Maryland, but it will also transform the entire Northeast corridor. This technology creates a mode of transportation that is faster, safer and more efficient than our current rail system. Passing legislation that could impact the future development of this project is damaging for the State and we urge you to consider all the positive benefits a project like this could bring to Maryland.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this bill and we ask that you vote UNFAVORABLE on Senate Bill 188.

Sincerely,

Michael Sakata

Marshall Klinefelter
Marshall Klinefelter

President & CEO, MTBMA

President, MAA