



Delegate Derek Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
Rm 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Comm.
Rm 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 18, 2021

RE: HB 33 – UNFAVORABLE – Climate Crisis and Education Act

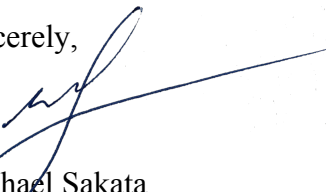
Dear Chairs Davis and Barve and Committee Members:

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.


We appreciate the Sponsor’s intent of this bill, as we are strong supporters of improving our education system in Maryland, while also taking steps to meet established climate goals. However, we cannot support HB 33 as it is highly concerning for our industry, particularly relating to greenhouse gas pollution fees and relevant cost structuring. As written, this legislation would require fees to be calculated based on relevant carbon dioxide or equivalent emissions, which would subsequently demand establishing measures to track vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Historically, VMT has been controversial as it is strongly opposed by the public, often increases the cost of goods and services, and could cost rural communities disproportionate sums compared to urban dwellers. At a time when the transportation industry is in desperate need of funding to correct our crumbling infrastructure, we must take realistic steps towards a goal that we all share. It is for these reasons we ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 33.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Sakata
President & CEO, MTBMA



Marshall Klinefelter
President, MAA