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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR PAUL PINSKY
VICE CHAIR CHERYL KAGAN

HOUSE BILL 1244 – STATE PROCURMENT – CONCRETE - PREFERENCE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

March 31, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky and Vice Chair Kagan. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 1244 – State Procurement – Concrete – Preference. This bill will make it the preference of the State to use a certain form of low-carbon blended cement, portland limestone cement(PLC), which is more environmentally friendly. This bill was passed out of the House with a technical amendment which I support.

Other than water, concrete is the most-used material in the world, representing approximately 50% of all manmade materials by mass. Concrete is so prevalent because of its versatility, but its production is a very carbon-intensive process. Because of this, even a small reduction in the CO2 used to create it can have a massive impact. By making a preference for PLC, Maryland can expect to see a 10% reduction in CO2 output from concrete plants. We will be following the lead of 32 other states who have accepted the use of this cement, including PA, VA, WV and North Carolina.

Frankly, there are no downsides to the use of PLC. It can be used in almost every instance that the standard portland cement can be. Its production requires no fewer workers, so there are no job losses related to its use. Currently there are two concrete manufactures in the state. One plant, in Union Bridge is already fitted to make the new cement. The other, in Hagerstown, has plans to make a \$250,000 investment to begin production. Both of the surrounding areas will benefit greatly from the reduced pollution, and the new concrete is revenue neutral.

The passage of this bill will be greatly beneficial to the health and well-being of Marylanders because of the positive environmental impact it will have. For this reason I am asking for a favorable report on HB 1243. Thank you for your time.