



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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

UNFAVORABLE

January 15, 2021

**RE: HB 77 - UNFAVORABLE - Environment - Application of Coal Tar Pavement Products - Prohibitions (Safer Sealant Act of 2021)**

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committees:

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.

As an industry we cannot support the prohibitions required in HB 77. By limiting the use of coal tar as a sealant, the ability of airports to produce a fuel resistance surface is reduced. The use of sealant that contains high levels of coal tar is environmentally damaging, but select applications of low concentrations of coal tar, performed by professionals can be effective and the threat to the environment is negligible. This bill could lead to higher maintenance costs for airports and while Maryland’s transportation infrastructure is already struggling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that we do not further limit our small businesses during this difficult time.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this bill and ask that you do not pass House Bill 77.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Sakata

President & CEO, MTBMA

  
Marshall Klinefelter

President, MAA