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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 24th, 2021

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Judiciary Committee
101 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 855 – FAVORABLE – Criminal Law – Life-Threatening Injury Involving a Motor Vehicle or Vessel – Criminal Negligence (Wade’s Law)

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 21 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 39 other associate members. We proactively work with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

We applaud the sponsor for introducing this important legislation. HB 855 establishes criminal negligence for causing a life-threatening injury by motor vehicle with a maximum penalty of 18 months imprisonment or a \$5,000 fine. The safety of our employees is something we fiercely advocate for and we hope this legislation will create enough of a deterrent for drivers to operate their vehicles safely, particularly in construction zones.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 855.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association