



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

UNFAVORABLE

February 5th, 2021

RE: SB 504 – UNFAVORABLE – Discrimination in Employment – Use of Medical Cannabis – Prohibition

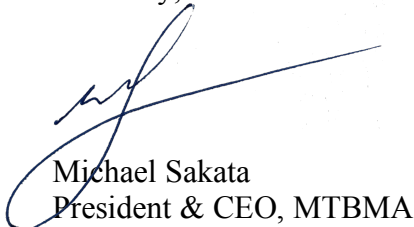
Dear Chairman Smith and Members of Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:


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.

While we appreciate the purpose behind this piece of legislation, our members feel this will result in unsafe practices within the transportation sector. Every day our employees engage in dangerous tasks, which require practicing the strictest of safety protocols. Performing this kind of labor under the influence of cannabis, medical or otherwise, would be extremely unsafe. Although the bill as written would prohibit the use of medical cannabis while an employee is on the clock, this is almost impossible to regulate. Without confirmation from a negative drug test, we cannot properly ensure the safety of our employees. We have serious concerns this legislation would make it difficult to fire an employee who was using medical cannabis while working if they could show they held a prescription. For these reasons, we ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 504.

We thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Michael Sakata
President & CEO, MTBMA


Marshall Klinefelter
President, MAA