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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 3rd, 2021

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

RE: HB 926 – FAVORABLE – Criminal Law – Homicide by Vehicle or Vessel – Penalties (Josette’s Law)

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Asphalt Association is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 20 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 40 other associate members. Combined our members employ more than 4,000 Marylanders in our operations. We assist with the education of our workforce, sponsor safety activities and promote best practices while working diligently to produce the highest performing pavement materials with the lowest carbon footprint. 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 greatly appreciate the Sponsor’s introduction of this bill and ask that the Committee show unwavering support for HB 926. This bill seeks to ensure that individuals who compromise the lives and safety of themselves and others on our roads receive appropriate penalties to prevent repeat offenses. Our members and employees interact with the roads system on a daily basis to carry out the essential duties of their jobs, which only increases their vulnerability to dangerous situations. By imposing heavier penalties, we incentivize safer practices on roads and railways. 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 926.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association