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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 25, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 829 – UNFAVORABLE – Department of the Environment – Zero-Emission Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles – Regulations (Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022)

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 24 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 41 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.

House Bill 829 would require the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations establishing requirements for the sale of new zero-emission medium and heavy duty vehicles by December 1, 2022. The regulations adopted may update existing regulations and incorporate the California Air Resources Board's vehicle standards.

While we appreciate the Sponsor's intent with this legislation, HB 829 has a largely negative impact on our members and the transportation industry as a whole. We unfortunately cannot support legislation that adds a significant financial burden onto our industry. The COVID-19 pandemic has already caused us to take a large financial hit with the delay of many projects. This bill toes the line of overregulation by dictating the purchase actions of companies using medium and heavy duty vehicles. These vehicles already meet the standards required by the Federal Clean Air Act, and this additional regulation is not only burdensome, but unnecessary.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 829.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association