



March 8, 2022

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1353 – FAVORABLE – Omnibus Procurement Reform Act (“OPRA”) of 2022

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects 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 advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 1353 seeks to reform procurement law in Maryland to increase transparency by requiring certain information be disclosed, among other changes. MTBMA appreciates the Sponsor’s introduction of this important piece of legislation and strongly agrees that it is time for changes in procurement law. In counties and municipalities where there are often little to no procurement regulations, this bill would establish a transparent process for protests and claims. It would also provide more insight to bidders by requiring disclosure by an agency of why they decide a certain way in bids. The bill also makes it a requirement that the Appeals Board must reimburse costs to a prospective bidder when it finds there was a violation of law, instead of making it discretionary as the law currently states. We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and for the reasons stated above, we respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 1353.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association