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**MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION**



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G. Marshall Klinefelter

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 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 1353 seeks to reform procurement law in Maryland to increase transparency by requiring certain information be disclosed, among other changes. MAA 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 dark ink that reads "Marshall Klinefelter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marshall Klinefelter  
President  
Maryland Asphalt Association