



March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 842 – UNFAVORABLE – Environmental Justice – Investment in Infrastructure Construction Projects**

Dear Chair Barnes 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 842 requires Maryland state agencies to allocate a minimum of 40% of federal funds for infrastructure projects in underserved minority communities, and it establishes the Justice40 Committee that identifies such projects.

While MTBMA acknowledges the intent to address environmental justice concerns and promote equity in infrastructure investments, we believe that the proposed legislation imposes undue burdens on our industry. Mandating a minimum allocation of 40% of federal funds for specific projects will limit the flexibility of state agencies and undermine their ability to prioritize projects based on merit and need. The specific criteria in the bill may overlook other critical factors such as safety, economic viability, and long-term sustainability. Infrastructure projects should be evaluated holistically to ensure they meet the diverse needs of communities and contribute to Maryland as a whole.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 842.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association