

CHAIRMAN:  
Jeff Graf  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
David Slaughter

**MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION**



TREASURER:  
Paul Bramble  
SECRETARY:  
Curtis Hall  
PRESIDENT:  
Tim Smith

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 841 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – State Procurement – Minority Business Enterprises and Small Business Enterprises – Procurement Forecast and Outreach**

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 19 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 25 contractor members, 25 consulting engineer firms, and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively 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.

Senate Bill 1014 would require the Office of Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs to develop a program that identifies and increases awareness of procurement opportunities for small businesses and assist small businesses in the procurement process.

MAA supports this legislation and any legislation aimed at assisting small businesses to participate in procurement opportunities in Maryland. It can often be harder to compete in the procurement process when you are a smaller company. We simply ask for one additional criterion to be added.

**(C)(3) AND ENSURE SMALL BUSINESSES ACCURATELY REFLECT THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THEY OFFER TO MAXIMIZE THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROGRAM.**

The Office does not break down the categories into adequate detail. Thus, making it challenging to properly identify the specific services provided by companies. We respectfully request that this be fine-tuned to further ensure small businesses have a fair chance to compete.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our amendment request for Senate Bill 1014.

Sincerely,

Tim Smith, P.E.  
President  
Maryland Asphalt Association