

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Dereck Davis
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of House Bill 722 (Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Heat Stress Standards) with Amendment

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes Senate Bill 722 (Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Heat Stress Standards).

This measure requires the Commissioner of Labor to adopt regulations that provide for written heat stress plans that include cold water, rest breaks in shade, limiting the amount of time in heat, postponing tasks, rotating employees, and record keeping.

Though MBIA appreciates the intent to protect workers' health and safety, implementing these new regulations would be difficult, particularly for the small and locally-owned businesses that make up a large percentage of our industry. Furthermore, many businesses already implement sufficient workplace safety policies compliant with federal standards. Additional requirements are unnecessary and costly.

For these reasons, MBIA would like to work with the Committee and the Sponsor to find a better solution that works for everyone. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Economic Matters Committee Members