



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

1020 Wallace Road
Crownsville MD 21032-1318

443.949.6322
patguibao@icloud.com

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 0398
HEARD BEFORE THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT and
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Barve and distinguished members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, The American Legion Department of Maryland enthusiastically supports House Bill 398 giving preference to applications for net-zero homes to small, minority, women-owned businesses and veteran-owned business.

In reviewing the Energy-Efficient Home Design published by the U.S. Department of Energy building and construction firms qualify to construct such residences must have extensive knowledge in such areas as weatherization, design and electrical and fuel components. Any firm attempting to enter this field must have invested heavily in training in all those aspects in order to qualify.

Under the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program as noted in the Fiscal and Policy Note accompanying HB 398 the first three categories are included. Only veteran-owned businesses are absent. We firmly believe, under the bedrock principles of entrepreneurship and economic equality, they should be a permanent addition.

The American Legion representing over 48,000 active duty personnel, veterans and their families believe they should be inclusive in contractual preferences and respectfully request a favorable report on HB 398. Thank you.

Yours, respectfully

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao
Chairman
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission