

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chairman, Health & Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition of House Bill 1370 (State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels - Requirement)

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes House Bill 1370 (State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels – Requirement).

This bill requires state-funded construction projects that are carried out by the State or local governments to be designed, engineered, and constructed in a manner that allows the roof to withstand the weight of solar panels. Though the intent is admirable, the effect this measure could have on school construction is concerning.

Many public schools across the State are in need of upgrades and counties cannot always afford to repair and maintain them. Adding any extra cost to the total projected cost of a new building is worrisome, particularly since passing this measure would result in fewer projects receiving funding in a given year.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. 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 Health & Government Operations Committee Members