

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building,  
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: HB 302 - Environment - On-Site Wastewater Services - Regulation**

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding HB 302 - Environment - On-Site Wastewater Services - Regulation. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill establishes the State Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals within the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to regulate and license individuals who perform on-site wastewater services in the State.

This bill is unnecessary and will create additional expenses for the state while providing little benefit for consumers. The current licensing regime already requires that all individuals performing inspections of septic systems for property transfers must complete an MDE-approved course in the proper inspection of septic systems and certify to the department that the course was completed. Inspectors must also make evidence of course completion available to their customers. MDE already offers training programs for Septic system inspectors for specialized septic systems which means that there is already sufficient institutional knowledge available to builders to safely install septic systems. Most individual counties already license septic installation and there is little reason to believe that an additional licensing requirement would make any appreciable difference in the quality of installation for septic systems.

The proposed Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals, would simply create an additional expense for making recommendations for regulations on an already sufficiently regulated industry. Furthermore, the bill requires that the board continually make recommendations for changing the regulatory regime which would deny installation specialists consistency in the requirements to employ their profession. The proposed fees for supporting the board will drive up the installation prices of septic systems. The confluence of these factors will ultimately create a slower, more expensive, more confusing and less efficient industry which will cost septic installers, consumers and the state valuable money and time.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee