

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Environment & Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251,  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: Opposition HB 1069 ( Water Supply – Private Well Safety Program)**

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 1069 Water Supply – Private Well Safety Program**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would establish the private Well Safety Program. The measure would impose a transfer tax of 0,02%. MBIA respectfully opposes the implementation of this tax. The transfer tax disincentivizes the sale of properties and drives up the costs of buying a home to consumers by forcing the additional cost of the tax into the price. Additionally, because this tax is based on a percentage and not a flat dollar amount this tax compounds with the expense of the house driving already expensive homes to increase their price more substantially than low cost homes.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt the proposed amendment and give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee