

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Luke H. Clippinger  
House Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building, Room 101  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 478 Civil Cases – Surcharges**

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 478 Civil Cases – Surcharges**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would prohibit surcharges from being passed on to tenants in civil proceedings. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. If landlords are prevented from passing on surcharges for summary ejectment cases, landlords will be forced to preemptively recoup their costs from tenants by building the potential surcharge cost into the cost of rents. This drives up housing process for all tenants rather than simply passing the surcharge cost on to the few tenants to which it applies.

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](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: House Judiciary Committees