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March 2, 2022

Chair Delegate C. T. Wilson  
Economic Matters Committee

**Re: HB 708 – Comprehensive Climate Solutions**

**Position: Favorable with amendments as suggested by the Climate Partners Group**

Dear Delegate Wilson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 708, Comprehensive Climate Solutions. I am a Sustainability Director and Architect and am a member of both the AIA, American Institute of Architects, as well as USGBC, the U.S. Green Building Council. I am also a representative on the AIA Large Firm Sustainable roundtable collaborating with other large architecture firms across the country to lead the way to carbon neutrality. I have served as a member of the MD Green Building Council (MDGBC) for three years and am currently serving as a Commissioner for Baltimore City's Commission on Sustainability.

House Bill 708 ensures that Maryland is a partner and leader in Sustainability. The bill amends Maryland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions goal to a 60% reduction by 2032 and a net zero emissions by 2045. Locally, these targets align with the goals Mayor Scott announced in January for the City of Baltimore, and globally, it works towards the Paris Climate Agreement targets and those set by Architecture 2030 and adopted by the AIA.

Any path to carbon neutrality and goal of reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions in the State will need to include a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in buildings as addressed in the House Companion bills. Buildings account for **39%** of Maryland's total energy consumption ([EIA](#), 2019). This is the same percentage reported as GHG emissions by sector in Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory ([MDE](#), 2017). The EPA also states that Carbon Dioxide makes up about 80% of the total US GHG emissions, ([EPA](#), 2019). And when we zoom into an urban area like Baltimore, building's account for about 70% of the total carbon dioxide emissions in the City.

House Bill 708 recognizes the crucial link with social environment and communities. The bill includes provisions for a Just Transition Employment and retraining working group, a MD Climate Justice Corps, and a Climate Transition and Clean Energy Hub. I also fully support the inclusion of programs that incentivize efficiency and work to alleviate energy burden. The median energy burden of low-income households in Baltimore is over 3 times higher than non-low-income households.

As a sustainability architect and advocate – I am excited about House Bill 708, Comprehensive Climate Solutions, and the positive impact this bill will have. It ensures that Maryland is doing its part to meet the climate targets needed; holds the State accountable; and protects our State's finances, the natural environment, and most importantly, the people.

I look forward to the favorable passing of House Bill 708.

Sincerely;



Lisa M. Ferretto, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, Eco-Districts AP, GGP