

2 March 2022

The Honorable C. T. Wilson
Chair of the Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for HB0706
Comprehensive Climate Solutions

Dear Chairman Wilson and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of AIA Maryland and the nearly 2,000 Architects we represent, we wish to express our support of HB706 Comprehensive Climate Solutions. important piece of legislation that establishes ambitious and achievable climate goals for the state, while maintaining a focus on environmental justice and equity. As architects, we work predominantly in the building realm of this bill, one of the top 3 emitting sectors of carbon emissions and we would like to share why we believe this bill is important.

It has been said that “if you refuse to accept anything but the very best in life, you very often get it”. We are all impacted by the challenges of climate change and we believe this bill asks you to choose to face them and proactively work to diminish their impact locally and globally. The zero greenhouse gas emission goal by 2045 requires action and the plan outlined in this bill offers a means to address the impact that often hits the poorest communities the hardest. It establishes incremental goals to put us on a path toward zero greenhouse gas emissions and it engages diverse representation to understand and organize programs to develop workforce skills to serve an industry that will need to be a way of the future. Your vote of support asks for the best for Maryland’s future and helps to develop a sensible path forward toward a more sustainable state.

The American Institute of Architects embarked upon a program for our members in pursuit of a similar zero greenhouse gas emissions goal beginning in 2010. Many of our AIA members have signed on to the AIA 2030 Commitment with a goal that all new buildings will be designed to be carbon-neutral in 2030. The goals of this program rely upon design strategies to improve the building envelope to demand less energy to condition, generate on-site renewable energy and purchase off- site renewable energy with a 20% maximum limit. We are already working toward these goals and aspects of this bill that share information, incentivize investment in renewables, document progress and build a knowledgeable and skilled workforce are key components that will help us develop an informed path toward reducing energy demand and reducing carbon emissions.

HB0708 Sets critical goals for our state. It connects efforts across market sectors and it aims to promote environmental justice and climate equity. We hope you can support this bill and expect nothing but the best for our state. We have already begun an effort toward many of these goals and we look forward to collaborating more with others and helping to move Maryland toward a carbon neutral future.

Sincerely,



Chris Parts, AIA
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland