

February 2, 2022

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: Support Environmental Health Specialists and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems – Transfer of Responsibilities and Standards, Regulations, Applications, and Plans

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 113 Environmental Health Specialists and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

This bill would standardize the application process for and encourage the efficient completion of approval plans for the installation of on-site sewage disposal systems. MBIA respectfully supports this measure. The promotion of consistent standards of application and regulation makes staying in compliance with the law much simpler and reduces the potential for unintentional errors and corrections. The creation of a statewide standard is a large part of maintaining consistency of process across local jurisdictions. Additionally, the inclusion of the Board of Environmental Health Specialists as a member of the list of regulatory bodies makes sure that regulation will be focused not just on engineering and waste water but also on the tremendous task of maintaining the high public health standards that citizens expect in the State of Maryland. MBIA supports the renewed focus on creating and maintaining safe public health systems.

As far as the timeframes in the bill, COMAR regulations 26.04.02 already require that if a permit is going to be denied it has to be denied within 30 days. Therefore, we believe we should get approvals in a specific timeframe as well. Lastly, should any work group or task force be created, the Building Industry should be included. We have a lot of expertise in the area and can be a valuable resource.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee 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.

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