

7 February, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for SB 0317
Income Tax – Credit for Energy Efficiency Upgrades – Passive Houses

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing to voice AIA Maryland's support for Senate Bill 0317. AIA Maryland represents nearly 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment. We fully support sustainable strategies in building design and construction as we collectively work to lessen our impact on the environment that surrounds us. We support the intent of this bill, which would not only encourage students to gain skills and pursue careers that would further benefit the built environment, but also has the added benefit of directly impacting the community in a positive manner.

We support SB 0317 and the state in implementing a tax credit for energy efficiency upgrades align with passive house practices for single or multifamily residential projects. A program such as this would show the approachability of building and design techniques which are above and beyond the code minimum. Passive House design and construction is focused on creation of a super-insulated and air-sealed building envelope to minimize demand for heating and cooling. This tax credit is not sufficient to cover the very focused efforts in design and construction to plan a Passive House project, but it may be just the impetus needed to decide to pursue a Passive House project. Ultimately, the improvements made with this tax credit would lessen the financial burden on the occupant, as their house will operate very efficiently, demand considerably less energy than a project built with conventional means and the resident utility bills would be lowered. Passive House buildings will be built without incorporating any equipment or appliances with fossil-based fuels, so this investment aligns with Maryland's climate change goals for new development. Furthermore, AIA Maryland supports the adoption of building practices that reduce our need for energy and have a lower impact on the natural world.

Sincerely,



Chris Parts, AIA
Director and Past President