

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chairman, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: MBIA Letter of Support HB245 Department of the Environment – Fees, Penalties,
Funding and Regulation**

Dear Chairman Feldman,

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports **HB245 Department of the Environment – Fees, Penalties, Funding and Regulation**. We support the bill as it was passed by the House of Delegates.

This bill authorizes the Department of the Environment to charge fees for processing sewage disposal and well construction permits. It also establishes fees for certification programs, requires oil transfer license holders to pay fees upon initial transfer into the State, and creates the Private Dam Repair Fund. MBIA supports this measure with amendments. We understand and support the need for the Department to have more revenue that will create additional resources.

While we understand that most of the proposed fee adjustments are justified by inflation, MBIA is concerned that the onsite sewage permit fee does not have a cap on the cost. We support MDE's amendment that the Committee consider putting a cap on the maximum possible fee. We propose to cap the fee at \$575 plus a Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee