



28 January 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair of the Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for HB0130
Department of General Services - State Buildings and Facilities - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas
Emission Reductions

Dear Chairman, Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of AIA Maryland and the nearly 2,000 Architects we represent, we wish to express our support for HB130, which codifies the Governor's executive order 01.01.2023.07, doubling Maryland's energy conservation goal for state-owned buildings to a 20% reduction in energy use by 2031, compared to a 2018 baseline.

This bill outlines the requirements of DGS energy savings/emissions reductions actions required in the Executive Order for DGS owned properties. Additionally, it requires the Maryland Green Building Council (MGBC) to update the High Performance Green Building Program to align it with the state's goal of net zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2045.

We believe the implementation of these actions for DGS properties are an important opportunity for the state to lead by example and help to drive the private sector to readily accept the important path toward their Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) goals. The utility records management database for the buildings is already established and DGS recognizes that it requires additional staff to implement this as a part of the executive order and those costs are covered in budgeted allocations.

Additionally, requiring Maryland Green Building Council to update the High Performance Building Program to align with the state's goal to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2045 is an important step in driving schools that were exempted from the BEPS goals to achieve equal or better results to commercial properties. Choosing building systems for school or other state funded projects are typically made when the building is built and then again assessed after 20 or more years when the systems are nearing the end of their useful life. If expectations to achieve those statewide goals are not made now as a part of the High Performance Building Program, the projects may either not achieve desired goals, or they will be required to make costly replacement of building systems in advance of their expected lifespan - in order to achieve the state GHG emission goals.

We believe this sensible legislation moves the state toward goals that are being asked in parallel of the private sector. The goals are achievable and they align with statewide goals for driving down GHG emissions. We encourage you to support HB0130 and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CR", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Parts, AIA
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland
CC: Environment & Transportation Committee