

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: House Bill 11 - Support Workforce Development and Adult Learning - Leasing Training Program - Establishment

Dear Chairman Korman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **(Issue)**. MBIA supports HB 11 - **Workforce Development and Adult Learning - Leasing Training Program – Establishment** in its current version.

The proposed legislation would seek to establish a Leasing Training Program within the Maryland Department of Labor to train, prepare, and connect job seekers with careers in the residential rental housing industry. Workforce development programs at a very base level play a pivotal role in fostering economic growth.

The need to fill vacant jobs in the rental housing industry is crucial, employment retention in this field has decreased notably since the pandemic and trying to hire for these job types has been challenging due to the lack of available training opportunities, as well as the expense that comes with the training. House Bill 11 would provide annual grant dollars to eligible partnerships, which would greatly expand training opportunities.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee 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 House Environment & Transportation Committee