

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: SB 472 - State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 472 Transparent Government Act of 2024**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version. The proposal would require certain departments and independent units to create a certain catalog of information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates issued by the department or independent unit and submit the catalog to the governor's office.

Maryland currently faces a housing shortage of approximately 96,000 housing units. If nothing changes, that number will increase by 5600 units per year. The National Association of Homebuilders reports that the estimated rent of a Maryland Housing Units is more than 30% of household incomes state wide with 25% of people spending more than 50% of their income on housing. In order to address this problem, we need a concerted effort to make housing available, and affordable to needed housing units. More than 50% of residents of the state of Maryland report that lack of housing availability is a major problem. According to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland is the 8th least affordable state in the United States. In addition, regulations imposed by all levels of government account for 23.8% of the price of a house.

This bill would allow for an evaluation of permits and other licenses that Builders need to obtain in order to build housing and evaluate the nature of these items and what may be duplicative and unnecessary. 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, Energy, and Environment Committee