

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chairman, House Environment & Transportation Committee
Room 251 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chairman Korman,

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** with amendments.

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.

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 request 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 House Environment and Transportation Committee