



February 17, 2026
Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
Chair, Economic Matters
230 Taylor Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support
HB 0691 Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects

Dear Chair Valderrama and Members of the Committee,

As a board member representing nearly 2,000 architects, on behalf of AIA Maryland, I write to express strong support of House Bill 0691, which requires each unit in the Executive Branch of the State government responsible for issuing a permit related to housing construction to adopt procedures to streamline the permitting process. While we understand that the streamlined process requirement exists in response to an executive order, the permitting process and speed or delays has great variations across jurisdictions. We hope this bill will help not only to streamline the process but ideally collect and use data that reflects on aspects of the process to focus on improvement.

Our members regularly file documents for a building permit, file amendments, work across jurisdictions on projects and amend submissions as issues related to the project, owner needs or other aspects may change. Without question, the speed, and flexibility of jurisdictions varies greatly and timing of reviews and approvals can be unpredictable. A renewed focus that clearly defines sequence of submissions and reviews across jurisdictions, paths for expedited assistance, or points of contact when permit processing seems to stop, would be extremely helpful in enabling greater predictability and understanding of where a project is in the approval process and whether there may be paths to accelerate approvals.

AIA Maryland cares deeply about the quality of Maryland's built environment and we are acutely aware of the housing shortage we are faced with here in Maryland. We believe that better coordination across jurisdictions and sharing of information will help identify and apply the best process for efficient permitting. We ask your committee to support HB0691 to prioritize clarity and efficiency in the permitting process for housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Parts", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Parts, AIA
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland