

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Dereck Davis  
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for House Bill 840 (Joint Committee on Workforce Development)**

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports House Bill 840 (Joint Committee on Workforce Development).

This measure seeks to create a committee to evaluate the state workforce, identify strategies to expand employment opportunities, and increase income through workforce skill development.

The results of this committee could help occupations like construction and development, which are currently facing a labor shortage. Many workers left the industry during the recession and never returned. Compounding this problem, many high schools have phased out shop classes, so students who are interested in pursuing construction-related vocations have very limited opportunities to learn or connect with employers in those fields. Home building slows without a strong labor force, keeping families from building strong communities and stunting economic progress in the State.

This committee is a positive step towards reinvesting opportunities for Marylanders to learn technical trades, enter the job market, earn a sustainable income, and contribute to the economic development of the State.

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](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: House Economic Matters Committee Members