

February 25, 2020

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

RE: Opposition for House Bill 1018 (Labor and Employment - Economic Stabilization Act - Revisions)

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes House Bill 1018 (Labor and Employment - Economic Stabilization Act - Revisions).

This measure requires an employer to provide written notice regarding a reduction in operations to their employees, representatives, and elected officials at least 90 days before initiating the reduction.

This procedure is currently voluntary, and working well. Therefore, mandating is unnecessary and expensive. A civil penalty up to \$10,000 per day could be issued against the employer for allegedly violating these requirements. This amount is overly burdensome and unnecessarily punitive; furthermore, many businesses that reduce operations do so for financial reasons and likely don't have the resources to pay such steep penalties. These requirements are needless and the proposed punishment is excessive.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable 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: House Economic Matters Committee Members