

March 12, 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 1207 (Electric Companies – Conduit Installation – Single-Family Detached Developments) with Amendment

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 1207 (Electric Companies – Conduit Installation – Single-Family Detached Developments) with amendment.

This measure prohibits electric companies from requiring builders and developers of single-family detached developments to install conduits required to extend the company's distribution system to the development at the builder's expense. This bill is an important counter to a new policy from SMECO that puts in the required conduits or trench the property themselves, but requires developers to pay for it in tightly packed communities. Such a requirement would add significant cost to projects, with very little advanced notice or grandfathering included. An amendment clarifying that these requirements only apply to SMECO service areas, with sufficient notice provided for projects already in the pipeline, is an appropriate measure to reasonably restrict SMECO's unilateral authority and prevents the cost of housing from inflating due to expensive new regulations.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt these amendments and 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: House Economic Matters Committee Members