

**LISA M. FERRETTO**, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, Eco-Districts AP, GGP

February 17, 2020

The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Chair of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for SB 0655, Capital Projects – High Performance and Green Buildings – Alterations

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the EHEA Committee;

I write this letter in support of Senate Bill 0655 to clarify the requirements of the Maryland High Performance Building Act. I am a sustainability architect and advocate, and am a member of both the AIA, American Institute of Architects, as well as USGBC, the U.S. Green Building Council. I served as a member of the MD Green Building Council (MDGBC) for three years and am currently a Baltimore City Sustainability Commissioner. As parts of both groups, I have worked in task forces to review codes to facilitate paths to find equivalency with LEED Silver legislation.

I support Senate Bill 0655 to clarify the green building requirements as this bill as it removes 4-809 (6), the language added as part of HB 1783, that required the MDGBC to *“develop guidelines for new public school buildings to achieve the equivalent of ... LEED... without requiring an independent certification.”* This language is unnecessary as the existing law did not require independent certification. In 2014, the MDGBC updated the MD High Performance Building Program (Program) to include a path without certification. As stated in the [MDGBC IgCC Supplement](#): *“The State of Maryland has enabled use of the 2012 edition of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) for all state and local jurisdictions in Maryland. The Maryland Green Building Council has adopted the IgCC as amended by this Supplement as an alternate compliance path to the minimum LEED Silver Certification for buildings developed under the State High Performance Buildings Act.”* The IgCC does not require independent certification but has a framework in place within the Program, to ensure equivalency with LEED Silver.

The addition of this 4-809 (6) language and the subsequent “guidelines” developed by the IAC and the MDGBC, allows Public Schools to simply have the architect state in the construction documents that the project complies with one of the rating systems without any documentation or validation. By removing the 4-809 (6) language – the Program would revert to the following compliance paths:

1. Without an independent third-party certification
  - a. IgCC as amended by the MDGBC
2. With an independent third-party certification
  - a. LEED Silver
  - b. 2 Green Globes

This suggested amendment ensures that Maryland continues to be a Sustainability leader that is protecting our state finances (including taxpayers’ investments), the natural environment of our beautiful state, and most importantly the people – student health, wellbeing, and academic performance.

Sincerely;



Lisa M. Ferretto, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, Eco-Districts AP, GGP