



AIA
Maryland

Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965

4 March 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 746
State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

AIA Maryland represents over 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment for the residents and citizens of the state. We are writing to voice AIA Maryland's support of the Senate Bill 746, to require enforcement of sprinkler requirements in residential construction by the State Fire Marshal.

We are aware that sprinkler systems for homes represents increased requirements for water service that can be more burdensome in some locations and jurisdictions. Further we understand that this may impact the cost to construct a home, however we feel the protection for life safety outweigh and are well worth the expense.

We ask that the committee support this bill to require the State Fire Marshal to enforce requirements relating to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings throughout the state. AIA Maryland, and its membership, consistently works to maintain and improve the quality of Maryland's built environment, including our efforts that maintain and enhance public health, safety, and welfare. We recognize the efforts our state's fire safety professionals have similarly made and we support those efforts.

AIA Maryland cares deeply about the quality of Maryland's built environment and the health, safety and welfare of its residents. We encourage you to vote in favor of this legislation and encourage Maryland's commitment to the protection of life safety. Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

Sincerely

Matthew Ormsby, AIA
President, AIA Maryland

Laurence A. Frank, AIA
Past President, AIA Maryland

cc: Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

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