

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition of House Bill 84 (State Highway Administration - Construction and Maintenance - Permit Requirements (Nighttime Construction Noise Reduction Act))

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes House Bill 84 (State Highway Administration - Construction and Maintenance - Permit Requirements (Nighttime Construction Noise Reduction Act)).

This bill essentially prohibits construction work on a State highway between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. in a residential or commercial residential zone, an area within 500 feet of one of those zones, or an area within 500 feet of a dwelling.

This restriction will be a huge impediment for the state to get critical road work done. It is sometimes necessary to work day and night to complete projects, and contractors need the flexibility to do so. Without that flexibility, critical infrastructure improvements will slow, impacting the safety and quality of life of Maryland residents.

This will also increase costs for our members' projects that would otherwise be conducted during those hours. Shifting nighttime activities to daytime increases project overhead costs, contractor costs, and traffic maintenance costs, all of which affect the final cost of a home for a the buyer.

500 feet is also an unreasonable amount; many dwellings, or potential future dwellings, are located 500 feet from a State highway. It is unreasonable for contractors and builders to have to stop work during nighttime hours in frequently-developed areas.

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 Environment and Transportation Committee Members