



AIA
Maryland

Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965

04 February, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair of the Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for HB 153
Public Safety - Maryland Building Performance Standards

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation 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. We are writing to voice AIA Maryland's support of the House Bill 153, Public Safety - Maryland Building Performance Standards with amendments.

This bill amended to 24 months, in lieu of the proposed 36 months, would keep the Maryland code adoption cycle, including local adoption, to three years. While we recognize that review of the International Building Code is time intensive, we feel it is vital for Maryland to continue to adopt and implement the latest updates by the International Code Council. Doing so allows professionals to design to the latest standards that protect public health, safety, and welfare without restricting the use of new material, products or methods of construction. AIA Maryland also wishes to offer their support for provisions in this bill that allow for adoption of more stringent requirements than the International Energy Conservation Code while not allowing for less stringent adoption.

AIA Maryland cares deeply about the quality of Maryland's built environment and we understand the importance of current codes. We therefore respectfully ask your committee to vote in favor of HB 153 with the 24 month amendment.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Ormsby, AIA
President, AIA Maryland

cc: Environment and Transportation Committee:

Dana M. Stein, Vice Chair

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Gerald W. Clark

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