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February 4, 2020

Chairman Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 153 Public Safety – Maryland Building Performance Standards

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of the International Code Council (Code Council) providing information regarding HB 153.

The Code Council is a member-focused nonprofit association with over 64,000 members (1,200 of whom call Maryland home) dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build, and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable, and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities, including Maryland, choose the International Codes (I-Codes) as their regulatory foundation for the built environment. Maryland adapts and adopts the International Residential Code, the International Building Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Green Construction Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, the International Existing Building Code, and the International Energy Conservation Code, all of which are updated every three years using a nationally recognized consensus-based process. The I-Codes incorporate the latest technology and construction practices providing minimum safeguards for people at home, school, and in the workplace.

We are happy to report to the Committee that the Code Council, along with other organizations, have been working with representatives from the Department of Labor on an amendment reducing HB 153's proposed 36-month adoption timeframe to 24-months. While the Code Council does not support extending Maryland's adoption cycle (also extending the implementation of new technologies, safety and sustainability provisions contained in the latest editions of the I-Codes), we understand the Department of Labor's reasoning, and support their goal for a more inclusive and uniform statewide adoption process. Therefore, if amended, the Code Council will not oppose HB 153.

The Code Council appreciates Maryland's contributions to the model code development process and looks forward to working with the Department of Labor and serving as a resource to the Maryland Assembly.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Wiley", is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Justin Wiley
Vice President, Government Relations