

February 12, 2020

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

**RE: Support of House Bill 351 (Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled Workgroup) with amendment**

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports House Bill 351 (Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled Workgroup) with amendment.

This bill establishes a Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled Workgroup to develop a State strategy that identifies State and local land use policies, business incentives, and transportation policies, investments, and programs to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the State and meet other related goals.

While we appreciate the intent of the bill to reduce vehicle travel and improve transit-oriented development, any work group that relates to land use and land development should include representatives from the development industry, which this does not. The residential development industry is impacted by land use decisions made on the State level, and can also lend perspective and experience to those land use and development decisions.

To encourage an unbiased review and ensure any recommendations consider the economic and physical feasibility of any potential measures, the residential building industries should be represented on this work group. We hope this measure will enable all stakeholders to collaborate towards implementing effective policy.

MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt this amendment and give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members