

February 21, 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 689 (Maryland Environmental Policy Act - Consistency With National Environmental Policy 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 689 (Maryland Environmental Policy Act - Consistency With National Environmental Policy Act).

This measure requires that Maryland State agencies remain consistent with regulation in the National Environmental Policy Act, including environmental effects reports and other guidelines issued by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

While MBIA appreciates the intent to protect our natural resources, this measure assumes the Federal government's guidelines are, and will continue to be, appropriate for the State of Maryland. Mandating that State guidelines match Federal guidelines prevents our very capable State Departments and Agencies from making policy decisions in the State's best interest, which may be inconsistent with Federal requirements.

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](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members