



**AIA**  
**Maryland**

*Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965*

24 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 823  
State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

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 for the residents and citizens of the state. We are writing to voice AIA Maryland's support of the House Bill 823, to require enforcement of sprinkler requirements in residential construction by the State Fire Marshal.

We are aware that sprinkler systems for homes represents increased requirements for water service that can be more burdensome in some locations and jurisdictions. Further we understand that this may impact the cost to construct a home, however we feel the protection for life safety outweigh and are well worth the expense.

We ask that the committee support this bill to require the State Fire Marshal to enforce requirements relating to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings throughout the state. AIA Maryland, and its membership, consistently works to maintain and improve the quality of Maryland's built environment, including our efforts that maintain and enhance public health, safety, and welfare. We recognize the efforts our state's fire safety professionals have similarly made and we support those efforts.

AIA Maryland cares deeply about the quality of Maryland's built environment and the health, safety and welfare of its residents. We encourage you to vote in favor of this legislation and encourage Maryland's commitment to the protection of life safety. Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

Sincerely

Matthew Ormsby, AIA  
President, AIA Maryland

Laurence A. Frank, AIA  
Past President, AIA Maryland

cc: Environment and Transportation Committee:

Dana M. Stein, Vice Chair

Carl L. Anderton, Jr.

Gerald W. Clark

Anne Healey

Mary A. Lehman

Neil C. Parrott

William J. Wivell

AIA Maryland Board of Directors

Dalya Attar

David Fraser-Hidalgo

Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.

Brooke E. Lierman

Vaughn M. Stewart

Regina T. Boyce

James W. Gilchrist

Jay A. Jacobs

Sara N. Love

Jennifer R. Terrasa

Barrie S. Ciliberti

Andrea Fletcher Harrison

Jay Jalisi

Charles J. Otto

Melissa R. Wells

**The American Institute of Architects**

**AIA Maryland**  
**86 Maryland Avenue**  
**Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

**T (410) 263 0916**

**F (410) 263 5603**

**[www.aiaMaryland.org](http://www.aiaMaryland.org)**