

March 4, 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 1425 (Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act) with Amendment

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 1425 (Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act).

The bill increases the statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction requirement and requires the State to achieve net-zero statewide GHG emissions by 2045 through utilization of several new requirements. Under this measure, any new building with 20,000 square feet or more of continuous roof space would be required to be equipped with a solar energy system and include minimum standards for the capacity of a solar energy system. New multifamily housing projects would have to raise the cost of rents for residents to offset the significant increased cost of providing solar energy equipment; this would disproportionately affect middle and lower income residents who are the primary users of multifamily residences.

We have concerns about how this this measure is so all encompassing and will ultimately hurt housing affordability. We would request that there be some accommodations for alternative compliance

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report with amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members