



AIA
Maryland

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2 March 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair of the Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Dereck E. Davis
Chair of the Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for HB 1490
Environment – Building Energy Performance Standards and Greenhouse
Gas Emissions Reduction Targets (Clean Buildings Jobs Act of 2020)

Dear Chairman Barve, members of the Environment and Transportation, Chairman Davis and members of the Economic Matters Committees:

On behalf of AIA Maryland and the nearly 2,000 Architects we represent, we ask for your support of this bill to adopt regulations to monitor and report greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and to establish goals to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas emissions from buildings.

AIA Maryland and AIA National are strongly committed to reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. Over a thousand design firms have adopted AIA's 2030 challenge tracking their projects and working to reduce embodied carbon emissions by 50% or more by 2030.

U.N. Secretary General António Guterres said last December:

“Climate-related natural disasters are becoming more frequent, more deadly, more destructive, with growing human and financial costs...” .

Edward Mazria of Architecture 2030 has noted the following:

“Burning fossil fuels for energy releases CO₂ into the atmosphere, trapping heat, raising the temperature of the planet, and causing massive changes to the climate and ecosystems. The U.S. building sector has made great strides in energy efficiency and the reduction of emissions from day-to-day building operations, even while adding over 30 billion square feet of building stock since 2005. To stave off a climate catastrophe, we must act quickly—peak CO₂ emissions now, reduce them by 65% in the next ten years, and reach zero emissions by 2040.

The American Institute of Architects

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We strongly believe that we can not and will not improve what we do not measure. This critical first step – measuring and assessing is essential in the path to meet this problem. The next steps, setting goals for improvements, establishing incentives and then improvement are the way forward to meet this urgent crisis.

Measuring will provide the baseline to establish and manage accountability and is the stepping stone to further opportunities to decrease greenhouse gas emissions in buildings throughout the state. Our members have long worked to create more sustainable, more efficient and more green buildings throughout the state. We believe a system to measure greenhouse gas emissions and to establish goals to reduce will provide accountability are among the critical steps to manage carbon.

Architects are committed to protecting the health, safety, and we work to enhance environments where occupants live, work and play. We care deeply about the health, safety, and welfare of Maryland residents, and we therefore respectfully ask your committees to support of HB1490.

Sincerely



Matthew Ormsby, AIA
President



Laurence A. Frank, AIA
Past President



Chris Parts, AIA
Director, Past President

cc:

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