

February 9, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Opposition to SB 367 (Housing and Community Development – Neighborhood Revitalization Programs – Application Requirements)

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding SB 367 Housing and Community Development – Neighborhood Revitalization Programs – Application Requirements. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This purpose would require an application for the neighborhood revitalization programs to include a letter of support from the legislative district in which a certain project or plan is proposed. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. Requiring a letter of support would be an additional expense in an already difficult approval process. Furthermore, this requirement would take projects out of the hands of the entities charged with objectively evaluating their value and place more emphasis on the changeable political landscape while adding no additional fiscal, geographic, population density, or engineering data.

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.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee