

February 10, 2021

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 418 (Maryland Energy Administration – Energy and Water Efficiency Standards – Alterations)**

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding SB 418 Maryland Energy Administration – Energy and Water Efficiency Standards – Alterations. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This measure would change the definitions of various types on industrial apparatus and requires the administration to draft new efficiency standards for those new products. MBIA opposes this measure on grounds that the changes in efficiency standards and definitions would disrupt existing projects if they are adopted by January 2022, additionally the new requirements to meet efficiency standards will increase the expense to builders and by extension will increase the cost to consumers. Many of these renovations directly effect business improvements, especially commercial eateries and would represent a significant expenditure during a period where many small businesses are struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also have concern about availability of certain products. If these standards exceed Industry standards the availability of product could be problematic. This issue has been exacerbated by COVID-19. We have seen many supply chain issues that make product availability an issue.

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