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Maryland

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19 January 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for SB 0330
State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects-Solar Panels-Requirement

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the EHEA Committee:

On behalf of AIA Maryland and the nearly 2,000 Architects we represent, we fully support sustainable strategies in building design and construction as we collectively work to lessen our impact on the natural world. We support the intent of this bill, however we believe aspects of the bill may benefit from adopting elements of existing building codes that are not currently part of Maryland's energy code, such as adopting appendix CA (Solar-Ready Zone – Commercial) of the International Energy Conservation Code. Projects such as public schools are already required to study the application and maximizing solar panel installation on the roofs of the buildings, but most public school projects see solar panels cut from the construction budget and panels are never installed.

We support the state leading by example and considering how to make state funded construction more sustainable. We support the planning and use of rooftop panels as a means of providing renewable energy for state funded buildings. We support SB0330 to implement solar arrays on publicly funded buildings and we encourage the use of a cross-disciplinary and vetted regulation such as IECC for establishing criteria for solar roof arrays through a public regulatory process.

Sincerely,

Chris Parts, AIA
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland

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