

Hon. Kumar Barve  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
6 Bladen Street, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: SUPPORT – HB 980 – (416-21) - Prince George’s County – Public Ethics – Definition of Application**

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members,

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) is submitting testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 980 Prince Georges County - 416-21-Public Ethics-Definition of Application.**

This amendment is critical allowing smart growth on both the economic and development side, while keeping the county attractive to potential residents and businesses. The amendment is not a “giveaway to developers” or builders or a loophole in the development process. Rather, it is an acknowledgment that an entire countywide rezoning was never envisioned when the affidavit requirement was imposed by the State legislature. Developers and builders are familiar with the affidavit requirement, and submitted hundreds of affidavits at the start of this process.

The new ordinance simplifies the uses and types of development, which are permitted (commercial, residential, industrial, etc.) in the county. It eliminates obsolete uses, consolidates similar uses, and categorizes all of them into general and intuitive categories. This amendment is critical to completing the process is critical to allowing the county to move forward. The county made a tremendous effort on the outreach side to educate as many county homeowners and residents as possible on the proposed changes. Resolving this issue now, could forestall years of legal challenges that would hold-up the implementation of a modern zoning ordinance that would replace the nearly 60 year existing zoning ordinance.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our feedback on **HB 980 - Prince Georges County - 416-21-Public Ethics-Definition of Application** and ask the delegation for a favorable report.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to Lori Graf at [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org)

Respectfully,

Lori Graf, CEO

cc: Environment and Transportation Committee Members