



February 18, 2021

Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Chair Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251 - House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 636/HB1073

Dear Chair Barve, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Michael Rosenband and in helping to lead the Passive House Pilot Program, it is an honor to write testimony in unequivocal support for House Bill 1073.

In this pilot, we plan to transform a vacant house, located across from Carver Vocational-Technical High School, into a passive house in collaboration with community, Carver faculty and students, BCPS, MICA, Coppin State, and the South Baltimore Community Land Trust. The partnership cultivated with students and faculty from Carver is particularly important as this project will be used to develop a passive house curriculum to train a new generation of vocational graduates. This will create new career pathways that sync with the growing need for environmentally-adaptive construction, ensuring economic viability for students entering the workforce in a shifting climate.

Benefits of passive house design respond to environmental resilience through building science, and also help affordable housing challenges through reduced utility costs. The uniqueness of this project is that the passive houses would be built within the walls of existing houses; proving that marrying existing materials with cutting edge home performance engineering can provide a new future for older homes and blighted communities.

On behalf of the people involved on this journey, we thank Delegate Tony Bridges and his team for introducing this important legislation, and this committee for the opportunity to speak in support of it today.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Rosenband".

Michael Rosenband
Founder, Requity