

February 23, 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: Support with Amendments, SB 764 (Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces)

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in SB 764 Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces. **MBIA Supports the Act with Amendments**

This bill would establish the Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces. The State of Maryland is in the midst of a housing crisis. We have a lack of inventory of market rate as well as affordable housing. The Maryland Building Industry Association believes that we need to find creative ways to tackle this issue. One of those creative avenues is to examine ways to create housing out of other spaces such as shopping malls and other commercial space that is being underutilized. There are a lot of examples of various jurisdictions around the country examining these various options. MBIA does, respectively, ask for a Residential Real Estate Developer to be included on the work group. We believe that we can offer unique perspective on the issue.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an favorable report with our amendments.. 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