



AIA
Maryland

Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965

22 February, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support for HB1073
Housing and Community Development – Neighborhood Revitalization – Passive House Pilot Program

Dear Delegate Barve:

I am writing to voice AIA Maryland's support for House Bill 1073. AIA Maryland represents nearly 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment. We fully support sustainable strategies in building design and construction as we collectively work to lessen our impact on the environment that surrounds us. We support the intent of this bill, which would not only encourage students to gain skills and pursue careers that would further benefit the built environment, but also has the added benefit of directly impacting the community in a positive manner.

We support HB1073 and the state in implementing a pilot program to offer training for the passive house practices and commend that the results of that training will be offered as affordable housing. A program such as this would show the approachability of building and design techniques which are above and beyond the code minimum. In addition, the results of this training and improvements to a neighborhood property would lessen the financial burden on the occupant, as the utility bills would be lowered, and serve as an example for other housing construction, not just in the affordable sector. Furthermore, AIA Maryland supports the education of students and the greater public in programs that reduce our impact on the natural world.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Verbeke, AIA
President, AIA Maryland

cc: Environment and Transportation Committee:

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The American Institute of Architects

AIA Maryland
86 Maryland Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

T (410) 263 0916

www.aiaMaryland.org