



**THE MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION**

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 0070  
HEARD BEFORE THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT and  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Barve and distinguished members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, The American Legion Department of Maryland enthusiastically supports House Bill 70 giving preference to applications for net-zero homes to small, minority, women-owned businesses and veteran-owned business.

In reviewing the Energy-Efficient Home Design published by the U.S. Department of Energy building and construction firms qualify to construct such residences must have extensive knowledge in such areas as weatherization, design and electrical and fuel components. Any firm attempting to enter this field must have invested heavily in training in all those aspects in order to qualify.

Under the State's Minority Business Enterprise MBE program as noted in the Fiscal and Policy Note accompanying HB 398, the predecessor to HB 70, the first three categories are included. Only veteran-owned businesses are absent.

We firmly believe, under the bedrock principles of entrepreneurship and economic equality, they should be a permanent addition.

The American Legion representing over 48,000 active duty personnel, veterans and their families believe they should be inclusive in contractual preferences and respectfully request a favorable report on HB 70. Thank you.

Yours, respectfully

*Patrick Guibao*

Patrick J. Guibao  
Vice President and  
Legislative Director  
Maryland Military Coalition

**1020 WALLACE ROAD CROWNSVILLE MD21032-1318**  
**(EMAIL) [PATGUIBAO@ICLOUD.COM](mailto:PATGUIBAO@ICLOUD.COM) (TEL.) 442.949.6322**