



AIA
Maryland

Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965

19 January, 2021

Delegate Anne Kaiser
Chair of the Ways and Means Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for HB 0060
Green Buildings Tax Credit – Multifamily Housing

Dear Chairman Kaiser and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to voice AIA Maryland's support of House Bill 0060, the green buildings tax credit for new or substantially renovated structures with a priority toward projects where a majority of residents are of low or moderate income. AIA Maryland represents nearly 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment. As architects we work every day to design the future now and this bill provides an economic incentive on top of a common-sense approach to be good stewards of the built environment. The economic benefit may ease some of the challenges of developing affordable housing, and it may in turn yield the benefits of lower operational costs for the low to moderate residents who will occupy the structures.

When the Maryland Energy Administration requirements are met under this bill, a tax credit may be awarded for up to 25% of qualified costs. Projects that would meet such criteria are required to make improvements that lower projected energy and water usage by at least 30 percent and at least 15% reduction of energy usage. The qualified paths to qualify for MEA credits, range from prescriptive means of achieving energy and water use reduction, to paths that allow greater flexibility in making design choices to provide the greatest value and healthiest environment for the residents. Certain paths may be more sensible for one project over the other, but the net result is a healthier, more efficient building.

Many residents of affordable housing are severely cost burdened where a majority of their income is dedicated to housing costs. This bill may help to diminish the burden of utilities on top of rent for affordable housing costs. We ask for your vote in favor of HB0060 to help incentivize smart choices to make affordable housing more efficient and directly benefit the residents and contribute to a more sustainable future.

The American Institute of Architects

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Parts', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Parts, AIA
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland

cc:

Ways And Means Committee:

Alonzo T Washington – Vice Chair

Dalya Attar

Darryl Barnes

Joseph C Boteler III

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