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February 25, 2022

House Appropriations Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 806 - AN ACT concerning Building Standards and Emissions Reductions – High Performance, State, and Local Government Buildings, State Operations, and Eligible Projects**

Good Morning, and thank you to the Chair and members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 806.

My name is Max Puchtel, and I am the Director of Government Relations and Sustainability for the American Institute of Steel Construction. We are a non-partisan, not-for-profit technical institute and trade association that has been the leading advocate and trusted resource for the American structural steel industry since 1921.

Us steel folks have the most experience with Buy Clean policies. When the Buy Clean CA Act first passed in 2017, steel was the only primary structural material covered in the law. For years we worked diligently and cooperatively with CA's Department of General Services, not to fight the law, but to positively align its implementation with the realities of our industry's supply chain.

I am happy to say that the constructive lessons-learned from that experience are present in this Maryland version of the bill. Most notably:

- All relevant structural products are included, providing an equal playing field for the building construction industry.
- Environmental industry standards are rigorously applied for life cycle assessment (LCA) practices, Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) creation, and industry conformance



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for Product Category Rules (PCRs). These safeguards promote fair comparison between products and allow our domestic producers to compete effectively.

High-quality regulations such as these produce even-handed, rational, and smart Buy Clean policies. HB 806 is a sensible bill that will establish Maryland as a leader in climate change action.

On behalf of the American Institute of Steel Construction and the State of Maryland steel fabrication community, I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,

Max Puchtel, SE, PE, LEED Green Associate  
Director of Government Relations and Sustainability  
*American Institute of Steel Construction*