

**LISA M. FERRETTO**, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, Eco-Districts AP, GGP

February 4, 2022

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair, Appropriations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 121  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB 365: Public School Construction – Fossil Fuel–Based Energy System Costs – Prohibition (Green School Construction Act of 2022)**

Position: Favorable with amendments

Dear M. Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 365: *Public School Construction – Fossil Fuel–Based Energy System Costs – Prohibition (Green School Construction Act of 2022)*. I am currently a Sustainability Director and Architect and am a member of both the AIA, American Institute of Architects, as well as USGBC, the U.S. Green Building Council. I am also a representative on the AIA Large Firm Sustainable roundtable collaborating with other large architecture firms across the country to lead the way to carbon neutrality. I have served as a member of the MD Green Building Council (MDGBC) for three years and am currently serving as a Commissioner for Baltimore City's Commission on Sustainability.

The Green School Construction Act prohibits the use of State funds for fossil fuel-based energy systems in Public schools. This eventual move away from fossil fuels is imperative for AIA's Carbon Commitment and for Maryland's overall goal of reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Transitioning schools from fossil fuels can easily be supported in the construction of new schools at no additional cost, and I understand there may be amendments proposed to accommodate existing schools with a life cycle cost analysis. This will also ensure that informed decisions are made while spending State dollars for system upgrades.

For the path of electrification and ultimately to zero fossil fuels and emissions to be successful, we need to also require that School buildings being constructed now are energy efficient. I understand there may be amendments proposed to the bill to include energy conservation targets for new construction and major renovations. The modeled energy savings in new schools will be greenhouse gas emission savings in the future and they will also provide reduced operating costs for the School districts. And we know the cost of construction and inflation is a huge topic in the industry today, especially for Schools.

As a sustainability architect and advocate – I look forward to the favorable passing of the Green School Construction Act with Amendments. It ensures that Maryland continues to be an accountable and responsible Sustainability leader, doing its part to meet the climate targets needed. It protects our state finances, the natural environment of our beautiful State, and our people, especially the students at our Maryland Schools.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa M. Ferretto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Ferretto" clearly legible.

Lisa M. Ferretto, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, Eco-Districts AP, GGP