

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

February 25, 2022

Appropriations Committee

Chair - Delegate Maggie McIntosh

Re: HB 1290, Education – Public School Construction – Funding and Administration

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair McIntosh and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **House Bill 1290, Education – Public School Construction – Funding and Administration**. 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 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. I have been involved in about 2 million square feet of LEED certified space – and most of those projects are schools located in Maryland and surrounding states.

House Bill 1290 increases the State share of a school construction project of 5% - if the school pursues zero-energy. Architects and engineers have the ability to build zero-energy **ready** schools today at no additional cost. However, the last stretch to building **an actual zero energy** school involves the installation of solar PV (photovoltaics), which can be above the typical school construction budget. It is crucial that we build our schools to be energy efficient, to be on a path to zero energy, to address climate change. The American Institute of Architects say that ***“Climate change is a health, safety, and welfare crisis. Ignoring it would undermine [architect’s] most critical professional responsibility: to protect our clients, our communities, and our earth.”*** House Bill 1290 helps schools lead the way to zero energy.

I also strongly support that House Bill 1290 increases the State share of a school construction project of 5% if the school is in a location of with a concentration of poverty levels of 55 -80% and increases 10% if poverty level is 80% or over.

House Bill 1290 will have a positive impact in our State, for our schools, and for our students – and I look forward to the favorable passing of this bill.

Sincerely;



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