

March 4, 2022

The Honorable CT. Wilson  
House Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231,  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: Support with Amendments HB 708 Comprehensive Climate Solutions**

Dear Chairman Wilson:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 708 Comprehensive Climate Solutions**. MBIA **Supports** the Act with amendments.

This bill would set new emissions reduction targets for the State of Maryland by altering the Statewide emissions reduction goals. MBI supports this measure with some amendments. We recognize the severity of the climate change threat and we find it laudable that the state wishes to do its part to participate in the global effort to combat climate change. However, we also recognize that the effort to combat climate change will be a global effort and that the impact of any single state or region will be minimal if not met with a global commitment. To that end the Maryland Commission on Climate change has made recommendations for significant reductions to the State's climate goals that will require a significant effort to meet. This bill has set more stringent goals which are not consistent with the recommendations and call for standards that may be unrealistic.

The current law calls for a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030 while this bill would require a 60% reduction by 2032. The recommendation of the climate commission was a 50% reduction by 2030 which would be the same deadline as offered by current law. This reduction will be difficult to hit and very expensive and adding an additional 10% reduction may create an unrealistic timeline. None of the recommendations by the Commission suggests that a 60% reduction will be possible.

This bill also proposes to forbid the use of carbon capture programs in developing a Climate Action Plan. MBIA respectfully suggests that this artificially limits the adoption of potentially useful technologies and will hamstring the efforts to make significant emissions reductions. Maryland must be a leader in developing these new technologies and deploying them to improve our carbon footprint.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt the attached amendments and give this measure a favorable report . Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

## **AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 708**

Offered by NAIOP and MBIA

### **Amendment No. 1:**

On page 7, in line 12, strike “60%” and substitute “50%” and in the same line, strike “2032” and substitute “2030”.

On page 7, in line 21, strike “60%” and substitute “50%”

On page 7, in line 22, strike “2032” and insert “2030”

*Note: This amendment conforms the bill to the recommendations of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. The Commission determined that, to comply with the United Nation’s IPCC guidelines, a 50% reduction by 2030 was necessary and sufficient. Failing to reach IPCC guidelines would mean that Maryland is not doing its part to combat climate change however, exceeding the UN requirements by an additional 10% would necessarily involve economic disruption without material benefit to the world’s climate.*

### **Amendment No. 2:**

On page 8, starting in line 14, strike “HAD BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN” and insert “IS EXPECTED”

*Note: In order to achieve the net-zero goals of the legislation, Maryland will need to be a leader in the exploration of new technology and methods. The change still requires carbon technology to be verified but no longer forbids the use of a technology until it has been thoroughly explored elsewhere.*

### **Amendment No. 3:**

On page 10, line 14, after “NO-ACTION” insert “BY MARYLAND”

*Note: This clarifies that the cost -effectiveness test in the legislation compares action by Maryland versus no action by Maryland instead of comparing action by the state to a lack of action by the remainder of the world.*