

January 26, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Support for SB 7 Invasive and Native Plants- Classification, Listing, Use, and Sales and Use Tax

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding Senate Bill 7 regarding Invasive and Native Plants. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

Developers are often required to build and maintain land through the use of careful planting. MBIA supports the effort to make those projects more environmentally sustainable and more in line with the State of Maryland's environmental goals. This bill would create a financial incentive for private sector developers to use native species through the proposed sales tax incentive as well as mandate the use of native species in State projects. MBIA supports incentivizing the use of native species over invasive species.

For these reasons MBIA supports the current version of the bill and respectfully requests the committee 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 Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee