

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Opposition HB 596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would create a constitutional amendment establishing a right to a healthy environment. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure on the grounds that it creates a great deal of legal ambiguity. While MBIA agrees that people should live in a healthy environment this amendment would not define what that is leaving environmental policy largely up to court interpretations. MBIAI believes that these definitions should be determined directly by Marylanders through their elected representatives and due to sound policy decisions and not legal interpretations.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt the proposed amendment and give this For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable 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 Environment & Transportation Committee