

February 10, 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 SB 608 Report on the Public or Private Conversion of State Property to Affordable Housing

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the **SB 608 Report on the Public or Private Conversion of State Property to Affordable Housing**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

This measure would require various state agencies to develop a report for the Board of Public Works making recommendations for the use of surplus public lands as sites on which to develop affordable housing. MBIA respectfully supports this measure. A recent study from the University of Maryland's National center for smart Growth and Enterprise Community Partners, says that Maryland must add thousands more housing units by 2030 to accommodate a growing population of low-income residents and also meet the unmet demand from moderate-income residents, seniors and people with disabilities.

The lack of Housing in jurisdictions all over the state coupled with the recent meteoric rise in housing process has highlighted this necessity for more affordable housing. Rather than simply letting public lands sit in trust with little public value, MBIA supports the development of surplus lands into affordable housing to create new opportunities for homeownership across the state.

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

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee