

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
3 East Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Support SB 524 Public Utilities – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs – Energy Performance Targets and Low–Income Housing

Dear Chairwoman Kelley:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 524 Public Utilities – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs – Energy Performance Targets and Low–Income Housing**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to procure new efficiency and conservation programs for low income customers. MBIA wholeheartedly supports this measure. In the battle against climate change MBIA recognizes the need for more energy efficient building standards to be put into effect. However, these upgrades come at a cost which is often born on the backs of lower income people that are unable to make the expensive transition in a timely manner. This bill would allow for tenants, who are more likely to be low income individuals to have a share in the economic benefits of electrification without having to bear the burden of the up-front cost. Stopping the costs of energy efficiency upgrades from getting passed to tenants and sharing the savings among all the Residents of Maryland is something we should all support.

For these reasons, MBIA 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 Finance Committee