

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Ways & Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: HB 93 Candidates for Offices of Municipalities and Common Ownership Communities - Reports of Donations and Disbursements- Support with Amendment

Dear Chair Atterbeary:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 93 Candidates for Offices of Municipalities and Common Ownership Communities - Reports of Donations and Disbursements. MBIA Supports the Act with Amendment.**

This bill would require that Homeowners Associations, Housing Corporations, and Condominiums file reports of donations and disbursements to the State Board of elections. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. These organizations are private organizations and have the right to conduct themselves according to their own rules. Since these positions are not public offices, the State Board of Elections has not vested interest in the oversight of these organizations. Setting the precedent that the State may regulate how private entities conduct themselves and choose their leadership sets a dangerous precedent. This bill would also require that if individuals wished to receive private donations, they are forced to put together an election committee including a requirement to appoint a treasurer, which forces additional time and cost on private individuals not engaged with public affairs.

It is difficult to get volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors of Common Ownership Communities. This will just add another layer to dissuade people from running and being active in their community. We would support this bill if the provisions regarding Common Ownership Communities were removed.

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

cc: Members of the House ways and Means Committee