

7 February, 2022

Chairwoman Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for HBO405  
Income Tax – Mechanical Insulation Installation Tax Credit

Dear Madam Chair Atterbeary and Members of The Ways and Means

I am writing to voice AIA Maryland's support for House Bill 0405. AIA Maryland represents nearly 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment. We fully support sustainable strategies in building design and construction as we collectively work to realize environmental, economic and social sustainability for the citizens of Maryland. This bill takes steps to reduce energy demand for the anticipated useful life of buildings and it will help in reducing operating costs.

We recognize that buildings alone are responsible for approximately 39% of the energy used and the global greenhouse gas emissions and we need to reduce our appetite for energy consumption. The AIA 2030 challenge is a program that many of our members have signed on for, striving to reduce our energy demand, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and strive for carbon neutral new buildings and major renovations by 2030. Particularly with renovations, this path cannot typically be achieved with just switching equipment to a more efficient heating and cooling system. Reducing transmission loss is part of the equation along with looking at the building envelope, building operation and renewable power sources.

We support this bill, which would encourage commercial property owners to make their buildings operate more efficiently by diminishing energy demand, in this case particularly focused on transmission loss. Whether we are considering heating or cooling, ductwork distributing air to spaces or mechanical system piping that is delivering refrigerant that is used to heat or cool air, it all operates less effectively when it is uninsulated or under-insulated. Transmission loss can be a significant contributor to energy consumption, it may cause equipment to run longer and cycle on more frequently when refrigerant temperature or distributed air temperature is affected when running through pipes or ducts respectively. Changes made as a result of this tax credit would be a permanent part of operating efficiency that will continue to provide more efficient delivery of air or refrigerant even when heating or cooling equipment is replaced. Incentives like these, that encourage building owners to make changes will simply help move us toward our statewide goals of carbon reduction sooner.

HBO405 establishes a desirable target for owners to help improve building operating efficiencies. These efforts synchronize with state goals and AIA Maryland's goals for sustainability. We encourage you to cast your vote in favor of HBO405 and help move us toward a more sustainable Maryland.

Sincerely,



Chris Parts, AIA  
Director, Past President

cc: Delegate Lehman