

**Re: Testimony of Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund-Funding-Alteration**

Dear Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB 1122. The purpose of this bill is for altering the amount of a certain appropriation the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill for the Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund, and generally relating to funding for the Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund.

As stated in SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: Article – Labor and Employment addresses Section 11–1302 which consists of the following; a) There is a Construction Education and Innovation Fund. b) The Fund consists of (1) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; (2) money made available to the Fund through federal programs or private 3 contributions; (3) money derived by the Center; or (4) any other money made available to the Center for the Fund.

For the fiscal year 2018 [and each fiscal year thereafter] THROUGH the FISCAL YEAR 2024, the Governor shall include in the annual [State] budget BILL an appropriation to the Fund of \$250,000 to support the operation of the Center.

For Fiscal Year 2025 and each Fiscal year thereafter, The Governor shall include in the annual budget Bill and Appropriation to the fund of \$625,000 to support the operation of the center.

It is significant to seek monetary funds for continual support to the operation of the MCCEI center in order to provide students in middle school and high school careers that are in the Construction Workforce. The need for skilled laborers and managers is fundamental for the growth of our country. The funds can also market and provide resources that are essential for including AEC in school curriculums, career fairs, workshops, and interns for the students and communities. We believe HB 1122 will contribute to the growth of the Construction industry and much-needed personnel and workers that are essential in providing careers and leaders in the Construction Workforce.

Sincerely,

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