



February 10, 2023

Delegate C. T. Wilson
Chair of the Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for House Bill 0463
State Board of Architects – Sunset Extension

Dear Chairman Wilson and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of AIA Maryland and the nearly 2,000 architects we represent, we ask for your support of this bill to continue the State Board of Architects in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act.

We support this bill to continue the State Board of Architects and to allow the Board to continue to perform its duties to regulate the profession. The Maryland State Board of Architects qualifies and licenses individuals seeking architectural licensure, issues permits to businesses practicing architecture and, regulates the practice of architecture under the provision of State law. We greatly appreciated your support of this bill last year and we ask for your support again. We also wish to call to your attention that the sunset is July 1, 2023, so your support again this year is particularly important.

The State Board of Architects provides, through regulation of the profession, for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of our communities. Our state board of architects also stands out as one of 15 US States and 2 jurisdictions that accepts alternate licensure paths allowing work experience as an alternative to graduate college credits – a prerequisite to sitting for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). This process helps to diversify the profession to be more representative of Maryland at large by allowing a path for those for whom schooling may be deferred due to change in life/family circumstances while maintaining a career in architecture.

AIA Maryland and its membership care deeply about Maryland's built environment. We are proud of our State Board's efforts to create a more inclusive profession. AIA Maryland put forth a resolution for our national meeting encouraging all states to enable this inclusive and accessible path to licensure. We support this legislation to maintain the systems that regulate our practice, and we are delighted to advocate for this bill, and we ask you to endorse this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. R.", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Parts, AIA, LEED AP
Director and Past President