

February 8, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: HB 147 Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 147 Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement**. **MBIA Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require that each individual county within the state of Maryland create and submit its own Climate Crisis plan. While MBIA recognizes the need for addressing the climate change issue and agrees that county's will be key players in the battle against this crisis, this bill will be counterproductive in the pursuit of that goal. Multiple counties have already adopted climate action plans to address the climate issue. Mandating the individual steps that must be taken instead of allowing counties the freedom to craft and adopt their own policies allows for the flexibility to adopt to local concerns and take into account the wishes of the people living in that county.

Additionally, this proposed plan includes requirements for overhauling public transportation systems, transitioning the entire county to zero emission vehicles, eliminating the use of fossil fuels completely in new buildings and retrofitting existing buildings. This list of demands is not possible to complete across all counties simultaneously without a significant influx of new funding and personnel. Otherwise this bill just creates an unfunded mandate that counties consume valuable resources vainly trying to implement with little practical effect. County plans that use county resources should be developed by the individual counties without requirements of which climate goals they are required to hit. The lack of ability to implement broad vision plans individually is an unrealistic expectation.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt the proposed amendment and 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 House Environment & Transportation Committee