

February 23, 2023

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

RE: MBIA Letter of Support with Amendments HB 612 Natural Resources – Licensed Tree Experts – Alterations

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 612 Natural Resources – Licensed Tree Experts - Alterations**. MBIA **Supports** the Act with amendments.

This bill requires that any person that receives compensation for acting as tree expert be operating under an expert license. Is the intent that the License applies to people physically performing the work? MBIA would like clarification on if this bill is intended to cover consultants such as landscape architects, foresters, and arborists, etc. These professionals often make decisions about trees during the inventory and planning stages of development entitlements and landscape design.

MBIA respectfully requests some clarifying language on page 3, line 11.

“A PERSON MAY NOT **PHYSICALLY** ENGAGE IN THE WORK OF THE TREATMENT, CARE, OR REMOVAL OF TREES FOR COMPENSATION UNDER A TREE EXPERT’S LICENSE UNLESS THE PERSON IS EMPLOYED BY THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT”

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report with the above amendment. 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