

February 23, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building,  
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: MBIA Letter of Support SB 830 Environmental Health Specialists and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Reform (Environmental Health Systems Support Act of 2023)**

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 830 Environmental Health Specialists and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Reform (Environmental Health Systems Support Act of 2023)**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require the health department to standardize their permit form and provide greater transparency for on site sewage disposal system applicants. MBIA strongly supports this measure. It is no secret that the permitting process for on-site waste disposal is a lengthy process that can often be difficult for applicants to navigate. This bill would require that the process be updated by implementing a comment system for failed applicants so they will know the reasons why their applications are rejected, develop a tracking system so that it is apparent where permits are in the process, establish monthly informational meetings to update the public on current regulatory practices, create a permanent staff within the Department of the Environment dedicated to this process.

MBIA supports this streamlining of this long and difficult process. Making it more open to public scrutiny and a more formal and dedicated staff will avoid the intentional and unintentional delay inherent in the process. It is important that this process be navigable and accessible both to developers and to the public at large as they consider how to best make use of the available developable land.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee