

March 8, 2023

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

RE: MBIA Letter of Opposition HB 874 Office of the Attorney General - Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring Unit - Establishment

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 874 Office of the Attorney General - Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring Unit - Establishment**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would create an Environmental and Natural Resources Unit in the Attorney General's office. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. This bill is unnecessary and muddies the regulatory waters for the other regulators and the regulated parties. The office of the Attorney General already has an environmental monitoring unit called the "Environmental Crimes Unit" the responsibilities of which are "the investigation and prosecution of criminal environmental violations and other associated criminal charges throughout the State of Maryland." This department is unnecessary and may lead to confusion by establishing another environmental enforcement office with essentially the same function. There is no reason to create a new office and use additional resources for this duplication of effort.

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