

Hon. Brian Feldman, Chairman Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee 2 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401 Hon. Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee 2 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Organization: The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD)

Bill: SB297 - State Board for Professional Engineers - Engineer Members – Qualifications

Position: Support

Chairman Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan,

The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD) is the representative organization for approximately 90 consulting engineering firms of various sizes across the state. These firms play a crucial role in serving both the public and private sectors by actively participating in the design and development of essential infrastructure such as public water and wastewater systems, bridges, highways, building structures, and environmental projects.

Our organization's member firms collectively employ approximately 7,000 individuals statewide, and approximately forty percent of ACEC/MD's membership is comprised of certified small, minority-owned, or women-owned businesses, reflecting our commitment to diversity and inclusion within the engineering industry. We respectfully **support** this bill.

Following discussions with the Department of Labor, we have gained an understanding that the bill's objectives include enhancing diversity on the Board and attracting younger members. ACEC/MD fully endorses these goals and is pleased to extend its support to the bill.

For any comments, inquiries, or further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at cfaison@acecmd.org.

Respectfully,

Chad Faison Executive Director ACEC/MD