

March 6, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB954 – Corporations and Associations-Transparency- Beneficial Ownership

Dear Chair Smith:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB954- Corporations and Associations- Transparency- Beneficial Ownership**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

Senate Bill 946 would require businesses to file a report with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation. The report would require information about each applicant and owner. Current law already requires all businesses to have a Resident Agent that is publicly identified. The resident agent is an individual or entity that is designated to accept service of process if the entity is summoned to court. This person also acts as the primary point of contact for the Department.

This bill will be onerous on business and creates an extra layer of paperwork that entities will need to file. Furthermore, this legislation unfairly burdens small businesses by requiring them to provide personal details. This could be, specifically harmful in the Building Industry as there are many in the community that aim to stop development and the production of new housing. The result of having personal information of all the owners could present challenges to those companies and projects.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests an unfavorable report on SB954
For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee