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March 4, 2025

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Steven M. Sakamoto-Wengel
Consumer Protection Counsel for Regulation, Legislation and Policy

RE: House Bill 1348 – Consumer Protection – Solicitation Following a
Disaster – Prohibition - SUPPORT

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General supports House Bill 1348, sponsored by Delegate Amprey, which would prohibit a contractor from soliciting repair work from a victim of a natural disaster for 48 hours following the disaster. The bill would help address the problem of predatory contractors deceiving or misleading desperate homeowners.

The Division has received complaints from consumers who are solicited by contractors following a disaster who either overcharge consumers for repairs or collect substantial up-front payments from consumers for repairs and either perform shoddy repairs or no repairs at all. The Division is also aware of contractors who solicit consumers promising that repairs will be covered by the consumer's insurance when that may or may not be the case. By prohibiting solicitation for 48 hours following the disaster, House Bill 1348 would provide a homeowner with the opportunity to make a rational, reasoned decision regarding making repairs and finding out about insurance coverage. The bill would also allow a consumer to engage a home improvement contractor with whom they have a previous relationship.

Since HB 1348 would help protect consumers whose homes have been damaged by a disaster from predatory contractors, the Consumer Protection Division requests that the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report.

cc: The Honorable Marlon Amprey

