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The Voice of Merit Construction

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To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Subject: SB 213- State Procurement – Transparency and Procdeures

Position: **Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland support SB 213. We believe this legislation will significantly enhance the fairness, efficiency, and transparency of Maryland's state procurement system, ultimately benefiting both the state and the businesses that serve it.

The debriefing provision will provide valuable feedback to unsuccessful bidders, allowing them to understand the evaluation process and improve their future proposals. This transparency will foster greater trust and confidence in the procurement system.

The inclusion of clauses related to changes in law will help to mitigate risks for both the state and contractors, ensuring fair adjustments for unforeseen circumstances. The revised change order requirements will improve clarity and consistency in contract modifications, reducing disputes and streamlining project execution.

The clarified timelines and definitions regarding protests will provide stronger protections for bidders, ensuring a fair and timely resolution of disputes. The provisions regarding contract claims, including the ability to recover certain defense costs, will create a more equitable and predictable framework for resolving disputes.

The provision for appeals to the Appellate Court of Maryland will provide a clear and accessible path for resolving complex legal issues related to procurement contracts.

This legislation addresses several critical areas of the procurement process, fostering a more efficient, fair, and accountable system for all stakeholders. On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 213.

Respectfully submitted,

Associated Builders and Contractors
Maryland Chapter