



February 16, 2026

The Honorable Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Opposition
HB 716 Land Surveyors and Property Line Surveyors – Private Property Access - Prohibition

Dear Chair Valderrama and Members of the Committee,

As a board member representing nearly 2,000 architects, on behalf of AIA Maryland, I write to express opposition to House Bill 716, which proposes to prohibit a land surveyor or a property line surveyor from conducting a survey on private property during deer firearms hunting season without the written permission of the property owner. Our members are not surveyors, but virtually every new and most renovation projects we work on, we work with surveyors on these projects to get a clearly defined site boundary document and topography to be able to place the structures we design and get visitors onto the site.

While this bill may sound simple, it has the potential to require a significant extra effort by surveyors, it may add time to project duration due to length of time needed to contact and get written authorization and as a result it has the potential to add significant project cost to get written approval for access, just to get to survey the property. As law currently stands, surveyors may, after making a diligent effort to contact a property owner in writing, enter private land to be able to measure, set markers as reference points and get the information needed to create a plan that defines what we have to work with. Additionally, this bill as proposed does not appear to discern between urban, suburban and rural properties, so the unintended consequences of affecting all properties equally have a potential to impact everyone across the state.

We urge you to give this bill an unfavorable report and allow a process that has worked to continue as it is. Surveyors currently reach out to property owners, and we do not believe that this proposed change offers anything more than a delayed or slower surveying process and higher project costs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. R.", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Parts, AIA
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland