



February 2, 2026

The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Opposition
HB 079 Climate Solutions Affordability Act

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

As a board member representing nearly 2,000 architects, on behalf of AIA Maryland, I write to express strong opposition to House Bill 079, which proposes modifying the narrative of the GHG reduction requirements in the Climate Solutions Act to be carried out “to the extent economically practicable”. Specifically pertaining to Building Energy Performance Standards, providing a loophole like the proposed language diminishes the incentive for compliance with the greenhouse gas emissions and would almost certainly lead to many appeals for leniency and result in much lower achievement of GHG emission reductions, affecting our statewide goals.

Benchmarking to track energy data to the Maryland Department of the Environment helps to inform the state and other building owners is an important means to plan for reducing GHG emissions and reducing operating costs for building owners over time. The Maryland Clean Buildings Hub has compiled resources to help property owners navigate through energy reporting, sharing of information to help make well informed energy investments and identify technical resources to answer specific questions. The proposed change in the language would likely create only a coalition of the willing to comply with the BEPS regulations. We strongly believe that compliance will lead to long term cost benefits for properties who do align with the BEPS guidelines and just like changes in building codes, when changes are made, people will design to comply.

Similar Building performance requirements exist in approximately 30 other jurisdictions such as Washington DC, Montgomery County, Boston, New York City, Colorado, Washington state and many others. There is nothing unique to Maryland that would make projects any more economically challenged here than these other jurisdictions where properties are required to comply.

We urge you to hold fast to the regulations established in the Climate Solutions Act and do not grant a change in the language that would allow properties to simply opt out of compliance because they state that it is economically impracticable. Please consider the damaging effects of HB 079 and **reject this bill** in favor of maintaining the well-considered goals of the Climate Solutions Act.

Sincerely,

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

Chris Parts, AIA
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland