

February 28th, 2022

Hon. Gabe Albornoz
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments - Requirements

Dear President Albornoz and Council Members,

The Maryland Building Industry (MBIA) is submitting testimony in regards to Bill 3-22 – Climate Assessments, which would require the Director of the Office of Legislative Oversight to prepare a climate assessment for each bill, zoning text amendment, master plan, and master plan amendment. We understand the goal of this bill is to continue the push in addressing the County’s climate goals as part of the 2017 resolution declaring a climate emergency, as well as increase the councils understanding of climate impacts in proposed legislation.

MBIA and the industry as a whole supports combating climate change and working with the county in doing so. In regards to this proposed legislation, it is unclear how the climate impact assessments from each proposal will actually be measured, and so we cannot support this measure without more information. For example, we are skeptical that there may be a push to impose a certain threshold that must be either met or not exceeded before a bill can proceed, which could unnecessarily delay meaningful projects. Will there a formula (s) or metrics that Legislative Oversight will use to conduct these assessments, so that bill sponsors, proponents, or opponents can objectively weigh the assessments produced? Again, will those metrics be static, or could they vary based on the type of proposal? It is also important to factor in the time that these studies could cause, which could delay proposals from moving forward. In regards to the economic and fiscal impact of this proposal, it states ‘to be provided,’ it would seem that this bill an office or officer to be created in order to oversee this policy separate from OLO.

We have not yet determined whether to support or oppose this measure, in large part because these are important questions that need to be addressed, the industry is eager to work with the county in crafting energy efficient and environmental policies and appreciates the opportunity to offer our feedback.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Griffin Benton, Vice President of Government Affairs at gbenton@marylandbuilders.org or 202-815-4249. Thank you again for your consideration.

cc:Montgomery County Council and Staff



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