

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
3 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: SB 76 Climate Crisis and Education Act

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding SB 76 Climate Crisis and Education Act. MBIA Opposes the Act in its current version.

This bill would establish the a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment, change greenhouse gas emissions goals and establish a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to reach the reduction targets and submit it to the General Assembly by December 31, 2022.

MBIA Respectfully opposes this measure due to the potential consequences of rash changes to the Maryland emissions policies and goals. This measure would establish an unrealistic timeline for achieving net zero emissions while we are still struggling to meet the previous goals of establishing a 60% reduction in 2006 emissions. Additionally, the infrastructure in the state is not yet ready to provide sufficient low-cost emissions free energy to meet the needs of the residents of the State of Maryland. The proposed fee for the generation of energy using fossil fuels will drive up energy costs for consumers during a period in which we will be recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

MBIA urges that rash action not be taken and that we put every effort into reaching the current goals of the state before extending these goals to unrealistic heights.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee