



January 12, 2021

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support HB 345 – Public Utilities – Gas Regulator Safety (Flower Branch Act)

Dear, Chair Davis and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters represent more than 700 companies that develop and own commercial, industrial and mixed-use real estate. On behalf of our member companies, I am writing in support of HB 345.

NAIOP expressed concern that the 2020 version of this legislation did not provide the regulatory discretion and flexibility necessary to address risk of damage from vehicular traffic that can, under some circumstances, arise from placement of gas regulators outside of buildings.

NAIOP thought it important that the bill allow for service installation to be individually evaluated to determine the appropriate location of gas service regulators based on site specific safety considerations. We believe HB 345 addresses these concerns.

For these reasons NAIOP respectfully recommends your favorable report on HB 345.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T.M. Ballentine".

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -*The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: House Economic Matters Committee Members
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.