



**AIA**  
**Maryland**

*Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965*

15 February, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for SB0636  
Housing and Community Development – Neighborhood Revitalization – Passive House Pilot Program

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

I am writing to voice AIA Maryland's support for Senate Bill 0636. AIA Maryland represents nearly 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment. We fully support sustainable strategies in building design and construction as we collectively work to lessen our impact on the environment that surrounds us. We support the intent of this bill, which would not only encourage students to gain skills and pursue careers that would further benefit the built environment, but also has the added benefit of directly impacting the community in a positive manner.

We support SB0636 and the state in implementing a pilot program to offer training for the passive house practices and commend that the results of that training will be offered as affordable housing. A program such as this would show the approachability of building and design techniques which are above and beyond the code minimum. In addition, the results of this training and improvements to a neighborhood property would lessen the financial burden on the occupant, as the utility bills would be lowered, and serve as an example for other housing construction, not just in the affordable sector. Furthermore, AIA Maryland supports the education of students and the greater public in programs that reduce our impact on the natural world.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Verbeke, AIA  
President, AIA Maryland

cc: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Jason C. Gallion  
Obie Patterson  
Mary Washington

Mary Beth Carozza  
Katie Fry Hester  
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