

October 19, 2020

Re: Letter in Opposition Re. CB78-20 – Impact Fee Funds

Dear Chairwoman Pickard and Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

The Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) writes in opposition of Council Bill 78-20. The purpose of the bill is to allow development impact fees to be used to pay for studies and analyses of the fees, in addition to their original purpose of funding infrastructure.

This would be an inappropriate extension. Funding studies and analyses is too far removed from the intended purpose of impact fees, which is to create capacity and fund infrastructure needed for new development. The code itself states that impact fees should be used solely for capital improvements for expansion of schools, roads, and public safety; not for operations. Impact fees were designed to be symbiotic, facilitating and ensuring mutual responsibility and partnership between developers and the County for public needs related to development. Allowing this revenue to be used for a different purpose is inappropriate and undermines its original purpose.

This misuse also robs the County of revenue needed to create additional infrastructure, including attainable housing. According to the fiscal note, these studies can cost upwards of \$200,000. Allowing impact fee funds to pay for these studies is a significant redirection and depletes resources meant for infrastructure improvements.

In conclusion, MBIA respectfully requests you vote against Council Bill 78-20. Thank you for your attention to this issue and your continued support of the local home building industry. If you have any questions about these comments or would like to discuss our position further, please do not hesitate to contact me or Chapter Chair Marilee Tortorelli at (443) 336-3500 or mtortorelli@mragta.com.

Best regards,



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CC: County Executive Stuart Pittman
Anne Arundel County Council