



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

April 1, 2014

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Building, 3 West  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Support, House Bill 207 - *State Capital Projects – High Performance Buildings – Maryland Green Building Council***

Dear Senator Kasemeyer and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed House Bill 207, entitled *State Capital Projects – High Performance Buildings – Maryland Green Building Council*, and would like to express our support for this legislation.

As a voting member of the Maryland Green Building Council, MDE has actively participated in the Council's review of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) as an alternative path to complying with the LEED Silver Rating System requirement under the High Performance Building Act. The Council, which has broad representation of state agencies, has developed a Maryland-specific version of the IgCC that is comparable to LEED Silver, but also reflects the state's existing laws, regulations and sustainability goals. MDE believes that House Bill 207 would maintain the standards of the High Performance Building Act while providing greater flexibility to the State and its contractors in determining whether to use a building code or rating system approach for a specific project.

Thank you for your consideration of this information as you review HB 207. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or [jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov](mailto:jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov) if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fretwell

Cc: Samantha Kappalman, Director, Legislative and Public Affairs

