

Steven Winter Associates supports CB5-2016

Elliot Seibert [eseibert@swinter.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 11:30 AM**To:** CouncilMail**Cc:** Katie Fry Hester (katiefryhester@gmail.com) (katiefryhester@gmail.com)

To Whom it May Concern,

Steven Winter Associates is an energy-efficiency and green building consulting firm with offices in Connecticut, New York and Washington, DC. As third-party consultant and verifier for green building programs like LEED and the National Green Building Standard we have helped hundreds of local home-owners, developers and builders meet their sustainability goals.

I want to let you know of our support IN FAVOR of CB5-2016, the extension of the high-performance building tax credits. We have seen first hand how this program encourages better, greener building practices in Howard County. This credit makes it possible to financially justify green buildings practices that benefit the community but don't necessarily provide a direct financial benefit to the building owner. These benefits include:

- Less storm-water runoff
- Increased resiliency during events like black-outs
- Reduced energy consumption, resulting in fewer hazardous power plant emissions
- Reduced energy demand, which benefits the power grid and ultimately reduces prices to rate-payers
- Lower water demand

One such example is Katie Hester, a Howard County resident who recently built her house at 3701 Red Oak Lane. In part because of the tax credit Katie and her team pursued NGBS and ended up saving as many trees as possible, installing geothermal wells, building thickened walls with extra insulation, installing 90% LED lights, and installing a first-class ventilation system for healthy indoor air quality.

I hope you will decide to pass this measure and continue Howard County's strong sustainability momentum.

Best,
Elliot Seibert

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