

CB5-2016

Residential High Performance Building Credit,

Mark Stevens [mark@stevensbuilders.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 11:55 AM

To: CouncilMail

Good morning,

I am writing in support of the legislation proposed by County Executive Alan Kittleman

I have been a custom home builder in Howard County for 17 years. Over the years, the cost of construction has increased tremendously for many reasons, including, permit fees, code regulations, storm water management requirements, structural codes, improved safety features, and many more. As a Certified Green Builder, we have always been a proponent of green features in our homes. We strive to educate our homeowners of the importance of these energy efficient features. Because we price our homes with what is required 1st, the optional green features come at the end of their budget. We would love to include them as a standard, but unfortunately we would price ourselves out of the market.

Since we strongly support energy efficient homes, we feel that the tax incentives are critical to owners being able to afford these features. Without them, most owners simply can't afford the increased cost. The green features typically cost more because the technology, equipment, and labor is more expensive. A clean environment benefits us all, and these incentives will absolutely create more opportunity for our owners to build more energy efficient homes.

We at Stevens Builders fully support these tax incentives being permanent.

I will be at the hearing Tuesday the 19th in support of passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Stevens

Stevens Builders, Inc.

4829 Ten Oaks Road

Dayton, MD 21036

410-984-7296

Office 410-531-2100

Fax 410-531-4900

mark@stevensbuilders.com

www.stevensbuilders.com