



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **MARYLAND'S LEADING GREEN HOME BUILDER GROUP PRAISES PASSAGE OF NEW HIGH PERFORMANCE HOMES LEGISLATION**

**House Bill 630 will encourage construction of green certified homes**

(Baltimore, Maryland) – April 7, 2011 - The Home Builders Association of Maryland's Maryland Residential Green Building Council today praised Senate passage of HB 630 – High Performance Homes. This bill will encourage construction of green certified homes by expanding the definition of High Performance Homes to include homes certified as Silver, Gold or Emerald under the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard as well as homes certified as Silver, Gold or Platinum under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for homes rating system. The bill passed the House on March 17 and is heading to the Governor for his signature.

“Green certified homes use cutting edge technology to save energy and water and have a smaller environmental footprint than non-green certified homes. Bill sponsors Pam Beidle and Cathy Vitale should be commended for recognizing that the ICC 700, designed specifically for homes, provides a clear and comprehensive program that enables homebuilders to construct comfortable, healthy, and cost effective homes that ultimately provide payback to its owners while providing a boost to Maryland's economy” said green builder Michael Baldwin, President and CEO of Baldwin Homes.

The ICC 700 was developed in January, 2009 and is the only residential green certification program to be independently certified by the American National Standards Institute or ANSI. Along with certifying new homes, the ICC 700 has rigorous certification standards for remodeling projects, land developments, and multi-family buildings.

Green certified homes incorporate environmental practices in six categories: Lot & Site Development, Resource Efficiency, Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Homeowner Education. “For customers wanting a green certified home, the ICC 700 is the way to go. I can build or remodel a home that is green certified and affordable under this program. It’s great that the state finally recognizes this standard” said William Zahler, President and CEO of Zahler Construction and Co-Chair of HBAM’s Maryland Residential Green Building Council.

In Maryland, 31 new homes have been certified by the ICC 700 as well as 2 land developments. Currently, 21 new homes are in the pipeline to be certified.

*The Home Builders Association of Maryland is a not-for-profit association that provides governmental relations, educational opportunities and generally functions as a housing industry advocate. HBAM consists of 1,200 member firms, representing over 100,000 employees, including home builders, commercial and industrial builders, remodelers, material suppliers, sub-contractors, lending institutions, developers, manufacturers, utilities, Realtors, architects and others from across the central Maryland region.*

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