

**HOUSE BILL 896:**

**HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
STATEWIDE GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM- ESTABLISHMENT  
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

February 26, 2020

Marriott International, Inc. is a global lodging leader headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland. Since its founding in the 1920s as a small restaurant chain in Washington, DC, the company has grown to comprise more than 7,000 lodging properties in 129 countries and territories, including 98 hotels in the State of Maryland. Our hotels and corporate offices in Maryland together employ over 12,000 people.

**Marriott supports HB 896 and the formation of a statewide Green Business Certification program.**

Today, it's abundantly clear that environmental factors are playing a larger role in travel and the way travel is perceived. Our guests want us to make changes that are good for the environment while not sacrificing quality service and experience, which is why we're on a journey to continually improve the way we operate our hotels and offices.

Marriott International began formally incorporating sustainability initiatives at our Corporate Headquarters in 2007. While we have always focused on energy efficiency and continuous improvements to the building, the US Green Building Council LEED outline and Montgomery County Green Business Certification program gave us specific goals to meet.

Some of the projects we've undertaken during the greening of Marriott Headquarters are customer facing and rely on teamwork throughout the entire building, but many are initiatives that take place behind the scenes and are never noticed. Examples of such practices include a building-wide composting program for organic waste, a public transit subsidy program for our associates and the elimination of styrofoam and plastic disposables.

A statewide certification program that is modeled after Montgomery County would create an additional incentive for companies throughout Maryland to strive for a more sustainable and efficient corporate culture. I thank you for your consideration and urge a favorable report for HB 896.

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