

HB 1311 and SB 722 Will Make Buildings Safer for Communities and Firefighters.

The fire services community supports HB 1311 and SB 722 because they know higher standards mean safer structures. Sustainable and durable development is the only economically viable way to build safe and resilient communities and infrastructure.



Firefighters, building owners, builders, architects, and designers have come to realize tragedies can be prevented when public buildings, private homes, and businesses are built to resist fire and natural disasters.



Resilient building products such as concrete and steel provide a cost savings over the long term comparable to no other product, especially wood or wood products.



Durability, safety, and resilience are important for all structures, but especially those housing at-risk populations such as schools, assisted living facilities, public housing and commercial multi-family residential homes.



A study by the National Institute of Building Sciences Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council reported that every dollar spent on reducing the potential impact of disasters saves society an average of \$4. With durable construction, damage from major storms can be less severe, reducing the energy and resources the community must spend on emergency response, reconstruction, repair, and recovery.

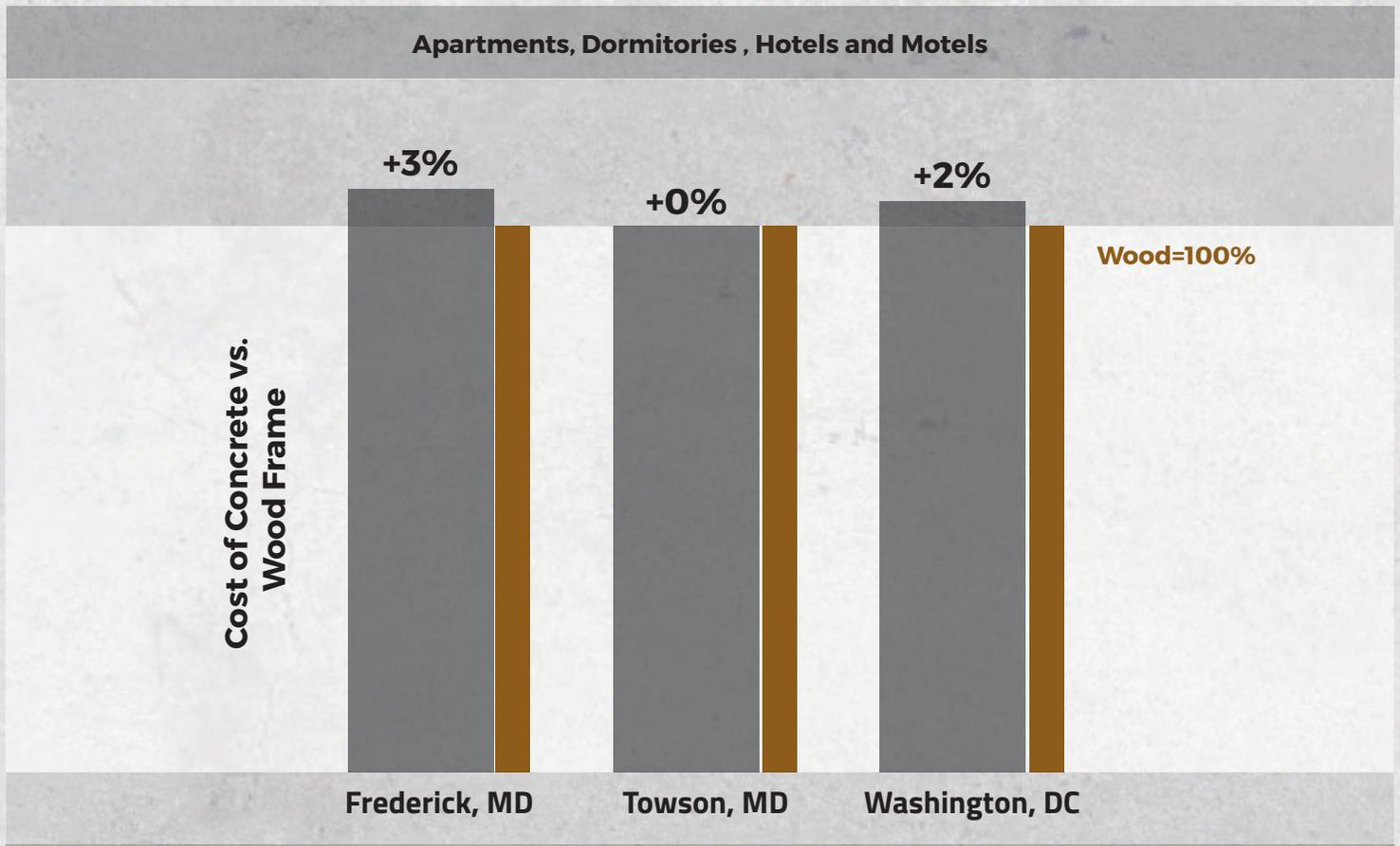


Studies by MIT have shown that homes with concrete walls can use 8 to 15 percent less energy than other homes. As heating, cooling, and general operations of buildings and homes in the United States accounts for approximately 70 percent of annual national energy consumption and more than 40 percent of CO2 emissions generated in the U.S., concrete provides a cost savings far beyond initial project cost.



Public safety professionals attest to how resilient construction methods on par with concrete and steel will protect the people who live and work in public spaces, as well as the first responders charged with responding to fire or natural disaster.

Data on combustible vs non-combustible building materials in Maryland for 4-7 story structures:



All Construction Types

Value	PROJECT	TOTAL SQUARE FEET
\$2,527,577,000	Commercial, Residential Construction Cost: Concrete: \$104.20/SF (+0.7% over wood) Wood: \$103.50/SF	24,249,000 SF
\$1,508,653,000		14,582,000 SF