



House Bill 708 -- *Comprehensive Climate Solutions*
House Economic Matters Committee
March 4, 2022
Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes House Bill 708 -- *Comprehensive Climate Solutions*

MCCC appreciates the broad vision offered by House Bill 708 and the climate package of legislation, but contends an incremental path, like first mandating the electrification of the state vehicle fleet and local school buses, is a more prudent approach. MCCC is generally concerned that reaching net zero emissions over such a short timeline is unrealistic and costly to business owners still struggling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MCCC asserts that priorities should first be set to electrify, or use “cleaner” energy for those items controlled at the state and county level rather than targeting the private sector. In addition, an incremental roll out will provide additional time for necessary infrastructure improvements.

House Bill 708 also creates a tremendous amount of uncertainty about whether there is sufficient electric generation capacity to meet climate goals. This is one outcome of banning natural gas, which creates many more problems than it would purportedly solve and would add billions of dollars of additional costs to businesses and consumers.

Delivering significantly more electricity into Maryland will require expensive upgrades and improvements to the electric grid that are, at this time, unrealistic to achieve for a variety of reasons. Using the amount of electric power required in Maryland will force risky and expensive upgrades to the electric grid and these costs will be passed through to all Maryland ratepayers at a time when the economy is still suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 708 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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