
HB1134

**Support with
Amendments**

TO: The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Annie Coble
Assistant Director, State Affairs

DATE: March 8, 2023

RE: HB1134 MARYLAND BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS – FOSSIL FUEL
USE AND ELECTRIC-READY STANDARDS

Johns Hopkins would like to provide testimony to **support HB1134 Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric Ready Standards with amendments**. This bill requires the State to establish requirements for new buildings to meet energy demands without the use of fossil fuels and establish electric ready standards. Johns Hopkins supports the intent of this legislation, but believes there is some further consideration that should be incorporated.

Johns Hopkins University buildings are at the heart of our campus community and provide secure spaces to work, live, and learn. However, they also account for over 90% of energy and greenhouse gas emissions and over 80% of our water consumption. Innovation and an integrative approach throughout the design and construction process is essential to making our buildings more efficient and to improving occupant well-being. We have established sustainability goals for our existing projects; and are developing a new Sustainability Plan to be released this fall that solidifies our commitment to addressing climate change.

As written, the legislation does not include any exemptions to the electric-ready requirements for new buildings connected to district energy systems. On our campuses in Baltimore, Johns Hopkins has invested significantly in developing district energy systems that ensure critical reliability and redundancy for healthcare facilities, laboratories, offices and classrooms. The Climate Solutions Now Act did consider the complexities of these systems and we urge similar considerations be made here.

Additionally, Johns Hopkins believes it would be prudent to clarify the requirements regarding fossil fuels. Specifically, language should be added to state "...without the use of **direct/on-site** fossil fuels" as a grid-powered electric building will still run on fossil fuels unless renewable electricity is purchased. It is implied but should be stated overtly.

We are proud of the work we have done to help reduce green house gases and the impact of climate change overall. We are grateful to the State for their work in the mission of sustainability. The legislation would be greatly improved with the amendments identified above.

Therefore, we urge a favorable **with amendments report on HB1134**.

JOHNS HOPKINS

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