

# NAACP

*Maryland*  
STATE CONFERENCE

March 3, 2023

Committee | Environment and Transportation

Testimony | HB1134 – Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards

Position | Favorable

Hearing Date | March 8, 2023

Dear Chairman Barve and Distinguished Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

I am Staci Hartwell chair of the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee of the NAACP Maryland State Conference. I am writing on behalf of the NAACP Maryland State Conference in support of HB1134.

This legislation is a meaningful step toward addressing one of the most insidious, entrenched, and sinister forms of systemic racism: the use of fossil fuel energy. The climate harms, such as increased flooding and excessive heat, are concentrated in vulnerable communities leaving Black and Brown people to experience these impacts most potently and leaving us with the least ability to adjust to these untenable conditions.

Further, across Maryland, Black and Brown communities disproportionately suffer from the local pollutants and other environmental injustices associated with dirty energy. In Baltimore, a city that is 65% Black, as many as 130 residents per 100,000 die every year from the consequences of air pollution.<sup>1</sup>

We, at the NAACP, are firmly in support of this legislation because of its momentum towards ridding the State of dirty, fossil fuel energy. All-electric buildings produce zero direct emissions<sup>2</sup> and zero indirect emissions when electricity is produced from zero-emissions sources. With intentional design and analysis, building electrification can also increase efficiency, cut costs, improve indoor air quality, and enhance safety. In the U.S., commercial and residential buildings account for more energy consumption (40%) and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://grist.org/business-technology/baltimore-youth-of-color-are-still-fighting-plans-for-gigantic-garbage-incinerator/>

<sup>2</sup> Excluding refrigerants such as hydrofluorocarbons that can leak from heat pump and air conditioning systems.

(31%) than any other sector of the economy.<sup>3,4</sup> Specifically, onsite combustion of fossil fuels in buildings contributes 13% of U.S. emissions.<sup>5</sup>

Our environmental coalitions, community-based organizations, and our august State legislative body invested countless hours and hundreds of millions of dollars in passing the *Climate Solutions **Now** Act of 2022*, not “Climate Solutions *Later*.” We must transition from the status quo, *now*. HB1134 which will help ensure we meet our goal of reducing GHG emissions, beginning *now*.

For these reasons, with a nod to the Justice 40 Initiative,<sup>6</sup> I request a favorable report on HB1134.

Respectfully submitted,



Staci Hartwell, Chair  
Environmental and Climate Justice Committee  
NAACP Maryland State Conference

8775 Cloudleap Court, Suite 200  
Columbia, Maryland 21045  
action@naacpmdecj.org  
Phone: 410-835-1463

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<sup>3</sup> EPA, [Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#). See “Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector with Electricity Distributed.” Note that for Commercial and Residential, 31% accounts for onsite energy use and offsite electricity generation used.

<sup>4</sup> EIA, [Use of Energy Explained](#)

<sup>5</sup> EPA, [Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#). See “Overview.” Note that for “Commercial and Residential” 13% accounts only for onsite energy use.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>