



HB 1134– Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards

Testimony before the Environment and Transportation Committee

March 8, 2023

Position: Favorable

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **strong support of HB 1134**. HB 1134 requires the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt as part of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, a code that new buildings meet all energy demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels and an electric-ready standard for certain buildings.

The [Climate Solutions Now Act](#), sets a target of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The law requires the state to create a plan for initial cuts in emissions by the end of the year. Fossil fuels burned inside buildings are responsible for 13% of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change 2021 Annual Report recommends that the Maryland Building Code ensure that new buildings (residential, commercial, and state-funded) meet all water and heating demands without the use of fossil fuels no later than 2024.

All-electric new construction saves money and reduces climate pollution. The Maryland Department of the Environment found that for single-family homes, all-electric cost less to construct than mixed fuel homes. Multifamily and commercial buildings are the same in cost. Constructing inefficient buildings that depend on fossil fuels today would effectively lock in emissions far into the future.

The Federal 2021 Infrastructure Law will offer \$225 million to states to adopt and implement better energy codes. In addition, the Inflation Reduction Act will provide \$1 billion for states to adopt energy codes that meet or beat the national model. Maryland must position itself to be competitive for these funds.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Barbara Matheson, PhD, Columbia, MD

