

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Environment & Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251,  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: MBIA Letter of Opposition HB 1134 Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards**

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 1134 Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill requires the Department of Labor to adopt a new electric energy standard for new buildings and eliminate the use of fossil fuels in new buildings by 2025 and 2029 size dependent. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. While we recognize the importance of addressing the ongoing and systemic risk of climate change this bill places full electrification of new buildings on an unrealistic and accelerated timeline. Many electrification technologies are not yet sufficient to meet our current needs. Heating technology, such as a heat pump, is sufficient in climate with very little relative temperature change during the year but does not work sufficiently in the Maryland climate without expensive emergency heat during extreme cold events like we experienced in December. Gas heating, including hybrid systems, is essential for this climate and a fully electrified building code that does not allow for that. BGE recommends hybrid heating systems as the best way to dramatically reduce carbon emissions while still meeting consumer needs. This bill currently prohibits this kind of system and instead requires local governments to grant waivers to specifically allowing them. This creates intense political pressure to prohibit a carbon reducing system that can easily meet consumer heating demands.

Last year the State of Maryland passed the Climate Solutions Now Act which requires that a Public Service Commission study be conducted by the state to determine a state wide, coordinated strategy to address emissions. This is scheduled for completion on December 31, 2023. That report was commissioned to study the effects and a realistic timeframe for implementing electrification. We should wait and hear the results of expert opinion and consensus in the report commissioned by this body before making rash and unstudied electrification mandates.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee