



HB1279

Maryland Building Performance Standards - Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric- and Solar-Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2024)

Testimony before the Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing March 06, 2024

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Vice-Chair Boyce, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB1279**. We appreciate the leadership of Delegate Boafu and his many colleagues in sponsoring this legislation.

HB1279 requires the state Building Codes Administration to adopt codes requiring that all new buildings, additions that increase heat loads by 30% or more, and other significant improvements meet all energy demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels. Local jurisdictions could grant certain, limited waivers but only in buildings that cannot feasibly use non-fossil sources. Any buildings granted waivers would have to be built electric-ready and must include automatic ventilation to maintain healthful indoor air quality.

The BBA also requires the Maryland Building Codes Administration to adopt new energy conservation requirements for all new buildings. Buildings would be required to meet absolute measures of "site energy use intensity" as defined by the US Department of Energy, thus reducing the amount of electricity needed from the grid.

Enacting HB1279, which has its basis in the 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act, will help to meet Maryland's legal obligation to achieve net zero climate pollution. It will make Maryland a global leader in healthy, modern, climate-safe homes and buildings while saving money for home and building owners, tenants, and the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Peter Alexander, PhD
District 9A
Woodbine, MD 21797