



This **testimony in support of HB1279/SB1023, the Better Buildings Act of 2024**, is submitted by Third Act Maryland. We have more than 1,300 members and are part of a nationwide climate justice organization of more than 70,000 experienced Americans over age 60 who are determined to change the world for the better.

The Better Buildings Act must be passed if Maryland is to meet the goals specified in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, which sets a goal of 60% of statewide emissions reductions by 2031 and net zero by 2045. Simply put, **if we continue to expand methane gas infrastructure, we can't meet our climate goals.** The Better Buildings Act will, with certain exceptions, require new buildings across the state to be gas-free.

The Better Buildings Act will **create high-paying jobs for electricians**, while enabling gas utilities to shift their workforce from infrastructure expansion to the much needed maintenance and repair of existing infrastructure: **Methane leaks from pipes beneath our streets in your neighborhood and in neighborhoods across the state, and leaks worsen with infrastructure age.**

The oil and gas industry has known for quite some time that climate-crisis-driven change is coming, yet **they continue to operate in Maryland with a 20th-century business model well into the 21st century.** They've had plenty of time to adapt their business model to the climate crisis, and now it's time—long past time—for the state to compel them to do so.

We urge you to pass the Better Buildings Act of 2024 without weakening amendments.