



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

**Support Senate Bill 1023 – Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric- and Solar-Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2024)
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
March 4, 2024**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which requires that the Maryland Building Performance Standards for new buildings include: 1) meeting all their water and space heating demands without the use of fossil fuels, 2) electric- and solar-ready standards for certain new buildings including EV charging requirements, and 3) energy use intensity targets for new construction of 25,000 sf or more.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed, largely residential municipality of almost 18,000 people and 2.4 square miles in Montgomery County. About half our residents are homeowners and half renters, with a wide range of incomes, backgrounds and ethnicities, and a significant number of energy cost-burdened homeowners and renters. The City relies on State and Montgomery County building codes and permits, and anticipates both new mixed-use construction and significant renovation of larger multifamily buildings in the future.

Like communities across Maryland, Takoma Park is keenly aware that we must move ahead rapidly to meet our state, county and local climate goals. Throughout Maryland, we have seen our climate dramatically and rapidly change, with devastating local consequences. Buildings are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions statewide, and both new and renovated buildings provide an opportunity to literally build in measures that help achieve these goals. It's imperative that buildings, especially housing, be as efficient as possible and prepared for the necessary transition away fossil fuels, as well as reducing the energy cost burden many of our most vulnerable residents face. It's also critical that we expand our elective vehicle charging infrastructure to accommodate the growing demand for electrified vehicles.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing GHG emissions through our many local policies and actions. But we need strong state leadership and action to support us and communities across the state. This bill will help us meet our city climate, as well as housing and equity goals and priorities.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports the intent of Senate Bill 1023 and urges a favorable committee vote.