



Committee: EEE
Testimony on: Better Buildings Act (SB1023/HB1279)
Organization: Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Submitting: Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, co-founder/director
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 4, 2024. 1 PM

Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony today in support of SB1023 – The Better Buildings Act – which requires new homes and buildings to incorporate the most energy-efficient equipment, safety standards, clean air equipment, and effective insulation.

My name is Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi and I serve on the Maryland Commission on Climate Change which [recommended](#) the policies in this proposed legislation. It will help us save lives and livelihoods of people across our state.

Previously I founded and led a Maryland headquartered disability nonprofit. I also know what it means to raise a child with multiple disabilities. There are more than 669,000 disabled people living in Maryland and most people in Maryland have a loved one with a disability. No group is more impacted from climate change.

People with underlying health conditions are more susceptible to death from extreme heat or cold. When the power goes off, people who rely on oxygen can't breathe, and people who use power wheelchairs can't move. When there is flooding, fires, or extreme wind they often cannot evacuate in time, or have no place to go that has the appropriate disability accommodations.

Maryland has a fantastic plan to fight climate change and the Better Buildings Act is a part of that plan. But it all honesty, we are not yet on track to meet our goals and time is running out. It's vital to do as much as we can as quickly and affordably as possible. This bill – in addition to the RENEW Act and other sources of revenue for the state plan – are key.

Fortunately, building right in the first place is a cost-effective way to save residents money while also saving our shared planet. This is important as people with low and moderate incomes, which includes most Marylanders with disabilities, need affordable housing. Thus, it is critical that this bill will help both their health and their costs of living.

Thank you for your consideration.