

Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB1279 - The Better Buildings Act of 2024

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 6, 2024

Dear Legislators,

As a Unitarian Universalist, I am very aware of our world's plight with climate issues. I want to do all I can to make this a living planet for my grandchildren. Even now, their lives will be heavily impacted by our heat, our severe weather changes, unclean air, flooding, and unsafe water.

I see the Better Buildings Act as providing some relief to those that will face hardships ahead. With ability to finance a heat pump, and making sure building codes will have the latest efficiency codes makes better health outcomes and saves people money.

As a child growing up in a small home with a gas stoves, my two sisters and I developed asthma which made more visits to the doctors and more trips to buy medicines and still today we take medicine to address our asthma. So having home built without gas stoves makes for a better life.

After adding heat pumps to my small unit in Greenbelt, I have seen a big reduction in cost for heating and cooling my home. Yes, there was some expense for the change, but overall, it has saved me much and will help the next person who acquires my home after I leave. The BBB Act will make heat pumps more affordable with the benefit of reducing harmful air pollutants.

I hope that you support the Better Buildings Act.

Sincerely, Kathy Bartolomeo

Greenbelt