

Testimony of Dr. David Goodrich, Rockville
House Environment and Transportation Committee
March 6, 2014

I'm Dr. David Goodrich, a retired climate scientist from NOAA, board member of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Montgomery County resident. I'm testifying in support of HB 1279, the Better Buildings Act. I read statements from members of home builders associations that start with "I'm not going to get into a debate about climate change..." That's good, because there's nothing to debate. If you inhaled the smoke from the Canadian fires last summer, that's climate change. If you watch the water inching up the Annapolis waterfront, or land disappearing from Dorchester County, that's climate change. If you watch stretches of the coast get obliterated from increasingly intense hurricanes, that's climate change. It's here now, it's not just something for our grandkids, and it's driven by greenhouse gas emissions. We can't keep locking in those emissions from buildings for decades to come.

I know that building electrification can be done, because I've done it. I've installed a heat pump, electric hot water heater, and solar panels for my 1969 house. I gas up my car from my roof now. There is an upfront cost, but the utility bill payback accrues to homeowners and renters, not fossil fuel companies. Climate change is simple: we're in a hole, and we need to stop digging. As a citizen and a scientist, I ask that the House of Delegates put the interests of the people before those of the oil companies and pass the Better Buildings Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.