



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 6, 2024

To: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: Letter of Information- House Bill 1279 - Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric – and Solar-Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2024)

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1279. Maryland hospitals are concerned with the negative health consequences caused by climate change and support the intent of the bill. However, the bill encroaches on existing legislation, and if enacted, may create conflicting requirements.

The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 was an ambitious attempt to reduce statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and address climate change. This recent legislation aimed to achieve net-zero statewide GHG emissions through numerous mechanisms, including through the establishment of building emission standards and energy use intensity levels. The Department of the Environment (MDE) has only recently proposed regulations to implement the new building energy performance standards, and as of writing the final regulations are pending.

Similar to the Climate Solutions Now Act, the Better Buildings Act also includes building standards and building site energy use levels. These additional proposals may overlap with existing requirements and create conflicting obligations that undermine the goals of existing statutes. The aims of the Climate Solutions Now Act may be better served by giving agencies the necessary time to develop and implement their mandates before introducing additional legislation in rapid succession.

For more information, please contact:
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