



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HB 210 - Maryland Building Performance Standards - Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards

POSITION: Support

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

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Since the emergence of the environment movement in the 1970's, the League of Women Voters has advocated for policies that protect our planet and promote public health. The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes that moving away from fossil fuel use and accelerating the renewable energy transition are critical steps towards mitigating climate change.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **supports HB 210**, which would require new buildings to meet all energy demands without the use of fossil fuels. In 2020, buildings in Maryland contributed nearly a third of greenhouse gas emissions statewide.¹ This makes building electrification a top priority for Maryland to reach its goals of reducing emissions 60% by 2031 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, **HB 210** will lower building costs for developers, save consumers money by increasing energy efficiency, and improve indoor air quality. This legislation will most directly benefit low-income Marylanders and communities of color, who disproportionately feel the burdens of high energy costs and bear the brunt of climate pollution.

HB 210 would align Maryland's Building Performance Standards with its goal of mitigating climate change, and address one of the state's largest sources of climate pollution.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **strongly urges a favorable report on HB 210**.

¹ *Building Energy Performance Standards: What You Need to Know*, Maryland Department of the Environment, 31 Oct. 2023, mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/BEPS/Maryland%20BEPS%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf.