



TESTIMONY FOR HB0210

Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Acevero

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0210 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

As a percentage of the total population of Maryland, the number of people who want to continue to use fossil fuels is very low. The majority of all Marylanders are fully behind the elimination of fossil fuels from our lives and especially from our homes and buildings. This is policy that the General Assembly should be strongly supporting. However, although the number of people who want to continue to use fossil fuels is small, they are very powerful. So, the right policy does not get enacted and short-term profits are more important than long-term health and prosperity.

This bill attempts to get the right policy enacted and make our buildings fossil fuel free by 2026 for buildings less than seven stories, and by 2030 for buildings greater than seven stories, unless the building owner gets a waiver. Waivers cannot be granted for financial reasons.

This is policy we desperately need, for ourselves and our own health, and for our children who will have to live in the world that we leave behind.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.