



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 6, 2024

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

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

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1279, *Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric- and Solar-Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2024)*. Solving the climate crisis requires us to shift to clean and renewable energy sources, and to convert many of our buildings and vehicles to run on that green electricity. All of us have roles to play and opportunities to benefit from this transition, and no one should be left behind.

This bill would require new buildings to meet their space and water heating needs through efficient electric equipment without the combustion of fossil fuels. It would also ensure that new buildings are energy efficient and ready for solar panels and electric vehicles. This is the right way to build new buildings, and all of these measures are cost-effective in new construction.

We have already passed a similar law in Montgomery County in order to advance our climate action goals and would welcome a standardized statewide approach. The requirements to meet space and water heating needs without the use of combustion equipment are especially important.

I respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee