



TESTIMONY FOR SB1023

Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric– and Solar–Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2024)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Brooks

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB1023 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.

The buildings sector is the most complicated facet of the electrification process that Maryland has embarked on. In order to meet the state's statutory goal of zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, we will have to electrify the entire buildings sector, including existing as well as new buildings. We cannot achieve this goal if we continue to build new buildings that rely on fossil fuel usage. We MUST cut that off immediately in order to control the size of the problem. We also need a plan for existing buildings to get rid of the fossil fuel infrastructure that they were built to use.

This bill, if enacted, would provide a partial solution to the problem. For new buildings, and any additions to existing buildings that increase heat loads by 30% or more, as well as any other significant improvements to use only electric energy, beginning October 1, 2026. It also requires EV-readiness, and solar readiness.

However, there is not a plan to get rid of fossil fuel appliances in existing homes, including gas stoves although energy efficient heat pumps and heat pump water heaters are cleaner, greener, and less costly than those using fossil fuels. Our members would like to see the legislature take this hard, but necessary step to making our lives cleaner and healthier and less costly. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.