



SB 256 - SUPPORT  
Frances Stewart, MD  
Elders Climate Action Maryland  
[frances.stewart6@gmail.com](mailto:frances.stewart6@gmail.com)  
301-718-0446

## SB 256, Building Energy Performance Standards

Meeting of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 13, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on SB 256, Building Energy Performance Standards.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

In 2022, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Climate Solutions Now Act, which made Maryland a national leader in addressing the climate crisis. One key feature of the act was the creation of the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS). The Maryland Department of the Environment was tasked with creating regulations to put those standards into practice.

Buildings are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. They are also a major source of air pollution, which has many adverse health effects, including asthma, other respiratory illnesses, and heart disease.

Decreasing pollution from buildings is challenging. Most of the buildings that will exist in Maryland in 2045 are here today. Strong Building Energy Performance Standards are essential in meeting that challenge. They also offer multiple benefits in reducing energy costs, creating jobs in Maryland, and making buildings healthier and more comfortable places in which to live and work.

We believe that the BEPS regulations must:

- Maintain strong emission reduction requirements
- Have strong energy use intensity standards
- Apply to all categories of buildings 35,000 square feet or larger
- Not provide credits for offsite renewables

Some building owners have expressed concerns about meeting the standards. We believe MDE has done a good job of addressing those concerns while crafting a rule that will provide the needed emissions reductions and desired health and economic benefits.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on SB 256.