



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Chair

Anyeley Hallová

### Vice Chair

Ruth Thomas-Squance, PhD, MPH

### Secretary-Treasurer

Daniel Hernandez

Salah Nezar  
Karen Weigert  
Marwa Zaatari, PhD

## PRESIDENT AND CEO

Peter Templeton

### FOUNDERS

David Gottfried  
Michael Italiano  
S. Richard Fedrizzi

February 25, 2025

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair

MD Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing

11 Bladen St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

### RE: USGBC Support for SB 804 (Better Buildings Act of 2025)

Dear Senator Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and our strong green building community in Maryland, **we are writing to express our support for SB 804, the Better Buildings Act of 2025, and to kindly ask for your support of the bill.**

USGBC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated to create thriving, healthy, equitable, and resilient places that advance human and environmental wellbeing. Best known for the [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#) green building rating system, USGBC has a thirty-year history of championing proven building decarbonization strategies, because we know that green buildings save money, improve energy and water efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and create healthier places for people.

USGBC commends the State of Maryland's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2045 and recognizes that building decarbonization is a critical pathway to achieve that goal. If enacted, SB 804 would help Maryland meet its public commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero for the building sector and provide a better future for all Marylanders.

SB 804 would add a requirement for new buildings and major renovations to meet all water and space heating demands without the use of fossil fuels, effectively mandating new buildings to electrify. In addition, certain buildings would be required to meet electric-ready, solar-ready or energy efficiency standards. As it is anticipated that [most buildings built today will still be standing in 2050](#), this bill is critical to ensuring efficient building decarbonization measures from the design and construction of a building rather than requiring costly retrofits down

2101 L St. NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20037

202-828-7422

[usgbc.org](https://www.usgbc.org)

the line. Maryland's longstanding commitment to high-performance buildings, robust energy efficiency standards, and [grid that is already equipped to accommodate high building electrification](#) enable this next step toward beneficial electrification.

Furthermore, we know that buildings have a direct impact on human health and wellbeing. We are especially appreciative that SB 804 would ensure that all residents of Maryland can access the health benefits of improved indoor air quality, as well as the financial benefits of reduced energy bills.

We look forward to working with you and the rest of the General Assembly to advance this legislation that supports healthy, energy-efficient, electric buildings.

Sincerely,

*Gracie Tilman*

Gracie Tilman  
Advocacy Partnerships Associate  
U.S. Green Building Council  
[gtilman@usgbc.org](mailto:gtilman@usgbc.org)

