



SB818- EDUCATION- SCHOOL BUILDING ENERGY USAGE-MONTHLY REPORT

**TESTIMONY OF BRITTANY BAKER, MARYLAND POLICY DIRECTOR AT THE  
CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

SB818 requires each county board to collect data on school building energy usage and report their findings to the Interagency Commission. The Interagency Commission will then analyze the provided data and make recommendations to the County Board for improving school energy efficiency.

School buildings becoming more energy efficient will be beneficial to the school itself, and also the larger community. Increased energy efficiency lowers utility costs, making it a sensible choice to save money. Additionally, increased energy efficiency reduces carbon dioxide emissions and general air pollutants that harm the health of residents<sup>1</sup>. SB818 will help the state decrease its greenhouse gas emissions and therefore create a more efficient and healthier Maryland.

This bill is a necessary step to help us reach our ambitious climate targets. Maryland Department of the Environment's Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent below 2006 levels by 2031 and reach net zero emissions by 2045. Governor Moore also issued an executive order last year that instructed the Maryland Energy Administration to establish a framework for a clean energy standard to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035<sup>2</sup>.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB818.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/energy-efficiency-clean-facts>

2

<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-signs-executive-order-to-advance-maryland%E2%80%99s-pollution-reduction-plan.aspx>