



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 13, 2025

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 256, *Environment - Building Energy Performance Standards - Compliance and Reporting*
Support

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 256, *Environment - Building Energy Performance Standards - Compliance and Reporting*, which would clarify the authority of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to enforce the State's existing Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) law.

Ensuring that our buildings are energy efficient and capable of utilizing clean energy resources is critically important to achieving state and local climate goals, including our goal here in Montgomery County to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. Building energy performance standards will encourage reinvestment in our communities in ways that improve buildings for those who work and live in them, support local jobs, foster long-term cost savings, reduce local air pollution, and align with our climate goals.

This legislation makes two important changes. First, it would enable MDE to establish an alternative compliance pathway for site energy use intensity (energy efficiency) targets required of covered buildings. Second, it would direct that revenue from alternative compliance payments be invested in the State's Strategic Energy Investment Fund, which could be used to help struggling building owners make necessary upgrades. These are reasonable changes that would help building owners to comply with this important policy. We support these changes and look forward to partnering with the State to help all covered buildings in Montgomery County to meet or exceed statewide standards.

I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee