

Testimony in Support of SB0804

Better Buildings Act

House Environment and Transportation Committee, hearing 2/27/25
Submitted on 2/25/25

To All Committee Members,

My name is Ray Earnest. I live in Caroline County, and I urge a favorable report on SB0804.

The Better Buildings Act reduces energy costs and improves public health for Marylanders by requiring ***all newly constructed buildings to meet their space and water heating needs without the use of fossil fuels***. This legislation would encourage the adoption of highly efficient electric equipment such as heat pumps. The bill also relies on the latest energy efficiency standards that discourage the use of expensive electric resistance heating, and includes a provision for solar-readiness for buildings under 20 stories to make sure buildings are built smart from the start.

By encouraging the installation of heat pumps and efficient electric appliances rather than furnaces, water heaters, and appliances powered by fossil fuels, this bill helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decreases the pollution that contributes so heavily to many Marylanders asthma, and lowers the cost of constructing and maintaining new buildings.

I support this bill because I care deeply about the health of Marylanders as well as avoiding the devastating effects of climate change.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee to give SB0804 a favorable report.

Sincerely,
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