

**HB973 - SUPPORT**  
William Mascioli  
2021 Luzerne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

[b3mascioli@verizon.net](mailto:b3mascioli@verizon.net)  
301.404.7490

**HB 973 – Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use,  
Energy Conservation, and Electric- and Solar-Ready Standards  
(Better Buildings Act of 2025)**

Meeting of Environment and Transportation  
Committee February 26, 2025

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.

I urge a favorable report on HB0973, the Better Buildings Act. Buildings heated using natural gas are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to public health problems. This bill would, without significant cost to the state, address that in a simple, direct manner. It would convert our building stock from climate liabilities that get their space- and water-heating from unhealthy, methane-emitting gas lines, to climate assets that use electricity that will be increasingly carbon-free as we achieve the goals of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

Global warming is an immense problem getting worse with every passing year of inaction. The idea that we are continually missing opportunities to do more to maintain a livable planet for our children and grandchildren causes me profound distress. Here, with the Better Buildings Act, we have a win-win opportunity to take meaningful action in Maryland. Please don't pass it by.

By simply requiring that we require new buildings to meet their space and water heating needs without the use of fossil fuels, the Better Buildings Act will significantly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas pollution with its attendant health problems. By moving from fossil-fuel burning furnaces to more efficient electric heat pumps, it will *reduce* energy costs. Also, it will avoid wasteful expenditures on new gas furnaces and pipeline that will in coming years become stranded assets as Maryland moves toward net-zero carbon emissions.

Let us take advantage of these benefits by passing the Better Buildings Act.