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February 24, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
MD House Committee on Environment and Transportation
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: USGBC Support for HB 973 (Better Buildings Act of 2025)

Dear Delegate Korman and Members of the Committee on Environment and Transportation,

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 HB 973, 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, HB 973 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.

HB 973 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

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and construction of a building rather than requiring costly retrofits down 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 HB 973 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

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U.S. Green Building Council
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