

HB973 - SUPPORT
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HB973- Better Buildings Act

Environment and Transportation Committee
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Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Environment and Transportation Committee members. My name is Henry Yarmus, a junior at River Hill High School, and I am here today as a concerned citizen to voice my strong support for HB973, the Better Buildings Act. This bill is not just about construction standards—it is about the future we are choosing for Maryland.

Growing up in Maryland, I have always admired our state's commitment to environmental leadership. But admiration alone does not reduce emissions. Buildings account for nearly 40% of total energy consumption in the US, and a decisive shift toward energy efficiency and electrification is crucial.

For me, this is personal. I have witnessed firsthand how rising energy costs burden the families around me and how outdated infrastructure locks us into dependence on fossil fuels. The Better Buildings Act ensures that new and significantly renovated buildings in Maryland are built to modern, sustainable standards—using clean energy for heating and appliances, being prepared for solar power, and prioritizing long-term efficiency. These are necessary solutions.

I have dedicated myself to climate advocacy in my community, leading the energy section of a Climate Action Plan aimed at improving sustainability of infrastructure within my school system. But real change requires action beyond the local scale. The Better Buildings Act is an opportunity for Maryland as a whole to take a decisive step forward, demonstrating that we are serious about creating a future where sustainability and economic prosperity go hand in hand.

I urge you to support the Better Buildings Act for the sake of our communities, our economy, and the generations that will call Maryland home.

Thank you.