



## **HB 973- FAVORABLE**

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

House Environment and Transportation Committee- February 16th, 2025

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

The Better Buildings Act offers the opportunity for Maryland to lower utility bills, make communities healthier, and decarbonize buildings in the most efficient and economical way- from the start. This legislation requires all newly constructed buildings to meet space heating, water heating, and laundry needs without the use of fossil fuels. The bill also includes solar-ready and electric-ready provisions. These provisions ensure that when households and building owners are ready to switch to fully electric properties with on-site clean energy generation, they are able to with very low transitioning costs. Lastly, the bill includes energy efficiency requirements to encourage the adoption of the latest, most grid-friendly appliances.

All-electric building codes have many benefits. Buildings electrification has been shown to decrease lifetime energy consumption by 34%, reduce the cost of construction by thousands of dollars, and reduce energy burdens due to lower utility bills.

The Better Buildings Act also serves to benefit public health. Fossil fuel burning furnaces in the state produce three times more air pollution than all of Maryland's power plants combined. These furnaces and HVAC systems are responsible for \$1.3 billion dollars in annual health impacts.

Further, new buildings electrification will have a balancing effect on the electrical grid. Load growth only strains a grid system if it increases the annual peak demand of the system. Because building electrification does not increase electricity demand in the summer when peak demand occurs, it is grid-friendly. The Better Buildings Act will lower utility bills, create healthier communities, and support broader decarbonization goals. We, the undersigned organizations, urge a favorable report on HB 973.

Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)  
Action Fund

Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice  
Wing

HoCo Climate Action

CASA

Cedar Land Unitarian Universalist  
Environmental Justice Ministry

Indivisible HoCoMD Environmental ACTION

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Climate Reality Greater Maryland

Elders Climate Action Maryland