



House Bill 973 -- *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 26, 2025

Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes House Bill 973 -- *Maryland Building Performance Standards - Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric- and Solar-Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2025)*.

House Bill 973 requires the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt, by October 1, 2025, and as part of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, energy conservation requirements, an electric- and solar-ready standard for certain buildings, and a requirement that new buildings and significant improvements meet all laundry, water, and space heating demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels.

MCCC supports clean energy policy solutions, recognizing climate change as a serious global threat to national security, the economy, and quality of life. However, MCCC is concerned about the bill's requirements, which create confusion for buildings trying to comply with a constantly changing patchwork of building energy performance standards. This inconsistency complicates development and redevelopment efforts, especially as the supply of attainable housing has become a major policy concern.

In Montgomery County, which has its own stringent building energy performance standards, there is significant confusion. State and county laws differ on which building sizes and purposes must comply, creating challenges in jurisdictions already implementing these standards. Additionally, pending litigation challenging Montgomery County's natural gas ban further adds to the confusion.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 973 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location.

Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.

*Brian Levine | Vice President of Government Affairs
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street | Suite 1800
Rockville, Maryland 20850
301-738-0015 | www.mccc.md.com*