



## **TESTIMONY FOR HB0973**

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

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Boafu

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0973 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

All over the country, we have been digging a hole when we build buildings. We are making our environment worse every time we start a new building and make it harder and more expensive to remediate. The Better Buildings Act seeks to ensure that we stop digging that hole, and build buildings that do not harm our environment from the start.

It requires most new buildings to be built smart from the start, with better energy conservation and no on-site fossil fuel combustion for space and water heating. It will encourage the use of electric equipment and includes a provision of solar-readiness for buildings under 20 stories tall for future deployment of even more clean energy options.

The Better Buildings Act only affects new buildings, which is a small subsection of the entire building stock. That means that the impact on the grid would be minimal, and could actually help the grid with its requirement for energy-efficient appliances.

But the real impact of this bill will be felt in what it doesn't do – it doesn't require these buildings to be electrified, saving the state a great deal even in the next few years.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.