



Bill: HB 212- MD Building Performance Standards- Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions, Inc. (MCIES) is a coalition of diverse stakeholders, including representatives from organized labor, manufacturing, energy production, transportation, and public utilities. Together, we are advocating for the inclusivity of all energy types, including natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, propane, and nuclear power. Please accept this letter in opposition of HB 212.

Essentially mandating building electrification—and thereby increasing electricity demand—comes at a time when Maryland is already struggling to meet both current and future electricity needs. This bill fails to address the necessity for a diverse and robust energy portfolio, which is critical for maintaining grid stability and ensuring affordable utility rates.

Recent market developments underscore the economic risks associated with this legislation. For instance, the July 30, 2024, PJM Interconnection power market auction saw an over 800% increase in electricity prices across Maryland and the broader PJM footprint. As a result, any anticipated energy cost savings from mandated building electrification will be significantly diminished by these rising electricity costs.

The proposed legislation also bars the use of emerging technologies such as renewable natural gas and hydrogen, which have the potential to provide cost-effective heat and energy while achieving meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in both the short and long term. By mandating an electric-only approach, this legislation effectively restricts consumer and builder choice. Financial considerations are a major factor in decisions regarding the construction or modification of homes and businesses; therefore, preventing alternatives that may be more economically viable is both impractical and detrimental.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you oppose.

Sincerely,

Sarah Peters
Executive Director