

Peter Doo, FAIA, LEED Fellow, GGP
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Re: In support of HB1425

My name is Peter Doo. I am a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a LEED Fellow. I am a past president of USGBC Maryland and AIA Baltimore. I have been a member of the Maryland Green Building Council and a commissioner with the Baltimore City Sustainability Commission and I would like to add my voice in support of HB1425.

My company, Doo Consulting LLC, is a sustainability consulting company focused primarily on sustainability in the built environment. For this reason, I am most qualified to comment on the High Performance Building aspect of this Bill.

This Bill targets zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. In general, buildings contribute about 40% of total emissions and this is consistent with Maryland's most recent GHG inventory report. For High Performance Buildings, HB1425 calls for State funded buildings covered by this legislation to lead by example and be Net Zero Energy if designed after July 2021.

For those unfamiliar with the trajectory of the building codes, the International Code Council has already written a net zero energy code Appendix which will be available for adoption by jurisdictions in 2021. The American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and the International Code Council (ICC) are collaborating in the development of building codes to be net zero by 2030. Several cities, including Washington DC, are targeting earlier dates to achieve this for all buildings.

Howard County has already built a net zero energy school and two others are nearing completion in Baltimore City. The project teams are documenting additional costs and it would be instructive to assess these reports. For these three NZE school projects, the grant received was less than 5% of the project cost. From our experience in the transition to greener buildings through the LEED certification program, cost premiums will plummet as more experience is gained.

To address another aspect of this Bill, the establishment of the various Working Groups is an excellent strategy to consider the myriad of issues that the State will face in its transition to a zero carbon economy. Jobs are always an issue and climate justice, given our extensive coastline and increasingly urbanized communities, are topics that should be considered at the State level. The Climate Justice Working Group and the Climate Jobs Working Group will be valuable in assessing the social impacts of the State's climate action.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my support of this Bill.

