



Kim Coble
Executive Director

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SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS: HB806

Building Standards and Emissions Reductions – High Performance, State, and Local Government Buildings, State Operations, and Eligible Projects

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB 806, and we thank Vice Chairman Stein for his leadership on the issues presented here. We are grateful for the suite of legislation before the House to make substantive reductions to our state greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposed legislation would change standards associated with greenhouse gas emissions from government buildings to make sure state and local governments in Maryland are setting ambitious standards as we seek a healthier, cleaner environment and economy. Decarbonizing buildings is a very important climate solution, and large public buildings are a great place to start.

We support the all-electric building code specified in the bill. Starting in 2023, it would require new public buildings (state buildings and local government buildings that were constructed with more than 50% of state funds) to have water and space heating provided without the use of fossil fuels. We also agree with the need to develop Building Emissions Standards to understand and measure the emissions that each building is producing, and there should be requirements for the state to report the emissions, as well as requirements to decrease the emissions in a decisive manner. This legislation creates a pathway for compliance with the new Standards, and a step-down in emissions. Compliance with the Building Emissions Standards is required for all government buildings greater than 25,000 sq. ft. by 2025. Additionally, buildings covered by this legislation should achieve reductions in direct emissions (those produced in heating and cooling the building) of 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2035. Reporting by the Maryland Department of General Services would start in 2023.

Finally, we support the inclusion of requirements to set the maximum acceptable global warming potential for materials used in building construction, and then require state procurements to only specify materials that meet or are *lower than* the maximum acceptable global warming potential.

We also agree with the importance of creating an Interagency Climate Action Plan. As specified in the bill, this plan will be developed by January 1, 2025 and will describe how to achieve net zero direct emissions (from gas infrastructure used for heating

and cooling) and indirect emissions (energy, which includes fossil fuel energy, from the grid) for all state operations.

We support the amendments being submitted by Climate Partners, and would like to bring special attention to the following amendments to improve the bill and align components we supported in the Climate Solutions Now Act (SB 528) in the Senate:

- We recommend adding energy efficiency measures to the Building Emissions Standards. The Maryland General Assembly notes that “energy efficiency is among the least expensive ways to meet the growing electricity demands of the State” and the American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy reports that “Energy Efficiency Can Cut Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Half by 2050.”

Additions to Ensure that HB806 is Equivalent to SB528

- Add a pilot for a net zero schools’ program that will utilize a Net Zero Pilot grant fund
- Add a requirement for the MCEC Climate Catalytic Capital Fund (C3) including an amendment that brings this program in line with the provisions of Justice 40 and require 40% of the Climate Catalytic Capital Fund investments be directed to overburdened communities, as well as allowing other statewide green banks be eligible for receiving these funds, especially as they support funding projects that serve low and moderate income communities. We are strongly supportive of the
- For Building Emissions standards, include a requirement for the same reduction for ‘site energy use intensity’ as requested in SB528

We respectfully offer and strongly advocate for the inclusion of these clarifying and strengthening amendments and Maryland LCV strongly urges a favorable report on this important bill.