



TESTIMONY FOR HB0365

Public School Construction - Fossil Fuel-Based Energy System Costs - Prohibition (Green School Construction Act of 2022)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Korman

Committee: Appropriations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0365 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

We can't keep hanging on to fossil fuels. We know we have to move to cleaner methods of furnishing energy, but it's much easier to fall back to what is known and understood. Our school systems are full of fossil fuel-based systems and each school system has a tremendous opportunity, and a duty to our children, to opt for cleaner technology when they are replacing old systems.

Replacing a gas system with a gas system is just poor decision-making because school systems are sinking costs into systems that will be obsolete and not maintainable by the time their useful life is up. Additionally, the cost of fossil fuels is expected to rise dramatically as the market shrinks. So, the long-term operating costs for a fossil fuel-based system will far outpace those of renewable energy systems (air and ground source heat pumps and solar). And yet, schools are replacing gas systems with gas systems.

This bill will preclude the use of state matching funds for the installation of fossil-fuel based energy systems in new and existing K-12 schools. Sometimes, you just have to incentivize the right choices.

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