

**Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**Testimony on: SB0588 Capital Projects – High Performance and Green Buildings**

**Submitted by: Donald M. Goldberg, Executive Director**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 15, 2022**

Climate Law & Policy Project strongly supports Senate Bill 588 and urges a favorable report.

SB588 expands the definition of “high performance building” in several ways. First, it enlarges the definition of “major renovation” to include renovations that exceed 50% of building area, 50% of assessed value, change in load or occupancy, or replacement of HVAC, plumbing or electrical systems.

Second, it includes buildings that are at least 25% State funded in the requirement that capital projects to construct or renovate buildings 7,500 square feet or greater be high performance.

We agree with these modifications to high performance building requirements. SB588 will ensure that, in the future, many more State buildings, public schools, and community colleges are constructed or renovated to high performance standards. If anything, we would like to see this mandate extended to require that 25% State-funded construction and modification of buildings 7,500 square feet or greater be net-zero energy or, at a minimum, net-zero ready.

We also strongly support direction from the General Assembly to the Maryland Green Building Council to ensure that State buildings, public schools, and community colleges that are required to be high performance buildings are in compliance with that mandate, as well as SB588’s reporting requirements.

HB588 is not a fully realized building policy for a carbon-free future, but it is a major step in the right direction, and CLPP supports it. We urge a favorable vote.