



Central Maryland Chamber

The Center of Intelligent Business

February 11, 2022
Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senate Bill 528- Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022
Legislative Position: Unfavorable

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee,

The Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce (CMC) was formed in 2017, a merger of two existing chambers- The Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber (originally founded in 1948) and the West Anne Arundel County Chamber (originally founded in 1962). The CMC is a regional organization representing approximately 350 businesses in the Central Maryland corridor and exists to be the primary business resource and advocate as the area experiences exponential growth.

The Central Maryland Chamber is writing to oppose SB528.

SB528 seeks to mandate the total phase-out of energy sources such as propane, heating oil and national gas for residential and commercial buildings by 2040 and rushes the existing 2030 goal for 20% greenhouse gas emission 5 years earlier than previously scheduled.

While we agree with the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this bill is unattainable, incredibly costly, and removes predictability for standards previously put into place. The prior targets and timelines are already costly but moving the target pushes incredible responsibility and expense onto businesses.

These are incredibly expensive structural changes and industry representatives report there are not enough advancements in technology or experienced workers to even accomplish such a goal. The costs of this requirement do not just impact businesses and commercial building owners, but individual homeowners as well.

The requirement that commercial buildings must measure and report greenhouse gas emissions to the Maryland Department of the Environment starting in 2025 is also complicated. In a short timeframe, businesses will need to support the cost of additional reporting, staff, or subcontractors to do the work of measurement, reporting and communicating with the state, with the burden on the department to manage such an incredible amount of reviews and communication, verification of accuracy, implementation of violations and much more.

Instead of creating new cost burdens for all Marylanders, both residential and commercial, with something so broad and far reaching, please focus on finding ways we can achieve the existing greenhouse gas goals without moving the target and driving up energy costs which are already crippling the community.

The Central Maryland Chamber requests that you vote unfavorably on HB496.