



SB588 - Capital Projects - High Performance and Green Buildings
Testimony before
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 15, 2022
Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Fixsen, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB588**, altering certain provisions in the definition and application of high performance building requirements. We appreciate the leadership of Senator Hettleman for sponsoring this legislation.

This bill expands State's high-performance building requirement to apply to any capital project (including major public school renovations) for which more than 25% of the funding of the project is State funds, and to more building renovation projects. The bill applies the high-performance building requirement to two new categories of capital projects if more than 25% of their funding comes from the State: (1) any non-school local capital project; and (2) major public school renovation projects. The bill also broadens the definition of a "major renovation" for the purpose of complying with the bill. Furthermore, the bill reinstates a requirement that new public school buildings obtain independent certification of their "green" status, and requires the Maryland Green Building Council (MGBC) to ensure compliance with the bill's requirements.

The effect of the bill is that more new construction and renovation in Maryland will be subject to "green" codes ensuring that the projects meet "high-performance" standards. More "green" buildings that conserve energy, reduce the use of raw materials, and save costs contribute to Maryland's campaign to protect the environment and combat climate change.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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