



February 14, 2022

Senator Paul Pinsky
Chairman
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

RE: SB 528

Dear Senator Pinsky:

The Anne Arundel County Chamber has some concerns about the SB 528. The bill has a broad range of climate and energy efficiency provisions and would require the State to achieve 60% greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030, net zero emissions by 2045, and annual statewide energy savings of 2.75% in 2027.

The bill also sets new standards for residential and commercial buildings in Maryland including 40% emissions reductions in all buildings by 2035. In addition, there is a deadline for June 30, 2023 to develop plans, adopt regulations, and implement programs that will reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the bill.

The Chamber supports the concept of reducing greenhouse gases but would like to see a more realistic timetables particularly for the establishment of plans, regulations and programs. Getting these in place by June 2023 is too ambitious.

The proposed regulations for new emission standards for residential and commercial buildings are too much too fast. The bill seems to indicate new construction and existing building would be under the new standard, which would mean converting from gas to electric. It will be much easier for newly constructed buildings to incorporate material and systems that will be able to meet the new emission standards but it will be very costly and disruptive to retrofit all existing businesses, especially for smaller businesses and residential property owners

The Chamber believes that the deadline are too ambitious and will create a hardship for small businesses and small property owners. For those small businesses that own their building they will have to take on the cost of converting and for those small businesses that rent their facilities they would most certainly face a rent increase. The Chamber would encourage the Committee to review the bill in more detail and determine a way to reduce the financial cost to small business by either establishing a phase in period or providing financial assistance to small businesses and small property owners to help cover the cost of the conversion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Kleinschmidt
President/CEO