

Good afternoon Delegates,

I am Kurt Evers a partner at Superior Fireplace and Hot Tubs, located in Prince Frederick and La Plata. I also represent the Mid Atlantic Hearth Patio and Barbeque Association for MD. Superior Fireplace is Family Owned and Operated since March of 2010. We currently employ ten people and have had up to 15.

I am a lifelong Marylander, Grew up in Landover Hills, Early on I dedicated my life to public service, I was a volunteer Firefighter at Riverdale Fire Department for twenty-five years and a Career Firefighter with Montgomery County Fire Department for twenty. I am honored to have served the citizens of this great state.

Delegates, Superior Fireplace and The Hearth industry in MD oppose HB 831 as it is currently written; we agree that something must be done about the climate. However, HB 831 is a very aggressive carbon free bill that goes above and beyond the GGRA 2030 and the recommendations of the MCCC.

Did you Know:

- 1) Maryland produces a little over 1/10th of a **percent** of the worlds Carbon. That is .00123 of the world's carbon.
- 2) Per Capita Maryland is one of the lowest Carbon Producing states.
- 3) MD Currently imports about 46% of its electricity now.
- 4) There are twenty states that have Fuel choice laws.
- 5) Relying on Electricity as the sole source of energy is dangerous. This is stated in the MCCC report as well as by power provides throughout the state.
- 6) Maryland recently experienced widespread power outage, due to a winter storm. Power failure (as you know) was particularly problematic for Residents who own ALL Electric Homes and businesses; However, Power Failure is Not as problematic for homes & businesses that have fuel choice, such as gas, electric, back up generation etc.
- 7) IF Maryland's Residents are forced to switch to all electric, there will be no other source of energy to fall back on in the future. This will impact the elderly and the medically frail, most. I am also concerned with the inefficiencies of Heat pumps when temperatures drop, people will resort to some type of additional heat (KEROSEAN) or just suffer.
- 8) Electrification puts too much of a burden on Maryland's Residents, especially the low to middle income and retirees, it's already too expensive to live in Maryland. Look at how many people leave the state in their golden years.
- 9) Forced electrification from, HB 831, in the short term will be worse for the environment as more fossil fuels will have to be burned to generate electricity to meet demand. Technology is not available to completely move renewable electricity "
- 10) There are no options, in the bill for any type of renewable or Bio products if one becomes available.
- 11) The effects on the economy, business and industry are huge. This bill will affect so many sectors I am not sure we know how many will be affected. Not to mention lose of tax dollars from business that fail.
- 12) Job Loss, I estimate this will cost the hearth industry about 150 to 200 jobs.

Kurt Evers
2521 Plum Point Rd
Huntingtown, MD 20639
443-532-5173

Superior Fireplace and Hot Tub
5246 Cutter Ct.
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-0704

