

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB831 Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings Organization: (self)
Submitting: Thomas Potyraj
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 25, 2022

Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing my testimony in support of HB831.

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC), in its 2021 report, recommends that the building sector reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Buildings make up 40% of Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions. 13% of this 40% is from direct emissions, primarily from gas to fuel heat and water systems.

The all-electric building code specified in this bill would require new residential and commercial construction to have water and space heating provided without the use of fossil fuels. It would also require new buildings to be ready for the installation of solar energy systems and electric vehicle charging equipment.

We have spent enough time incorporating fossil fuel infrastructure into Maryland buildings. Now is the time to curtail investments in a fossil-fuel based infrastructure. To do this, we need guidance such as that provided in this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of HB0831 Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Commercial and Residential Buildings. I support this bill and urge a FAVORABLE vote.

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