

STATE OF MARYLAND

COMMISSIONERS

JASON M. STANEK
CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL T. RICHARD
ANTHONY J. O'DONNELL
ODOGWU OBI LINTON
MINDY L. HERMAN



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 25, 2022

Chair Kumar P. Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee, Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: INFORMATION – HB 831 – Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Commercial and Residential Buildings

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

HB 831 envisions broad modifications to the building sector across the State to address climate change, some of which would impact the utility industry and ratepayers. While the Maryland Public Service Commission does not oppose these changes, I would offer an observation regarding the proposed building code changes.

HB 831 proposes to limit the amount of greenhouse gas emissions directly from buildings and prohibits the use of fossil fuels in new buildings for water and space heating. To achieve these goals, the electric and natural gas utilities regulated by the Commission will be impacted in significant ways. Specifically, the proposed changes to prohibit new buildings from using fossil fuels to serve water and space heating demands will impact how the utilities plan their systems, meet customer needs, and the rates customers pay on their utility bills. The size of the rate impact on customers is unknown without further study.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide information on HB 831. Please contact Lisa Smith, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (410) 336-6288 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason M. Stanek'.

Jason M. Stanek
Chairman