



Councilman Mark Conway
Councilman *Fourth District*

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TO: Chair Kumar P. Barve; members of the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

BILL: HB831 (Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings)

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Barve and honorable members of the committee,

Climate change presents an existential risk to our planet and to communities across Maryland. In cities like Baltimore, which I am proud to represent, rising temperatures can cause worse health outcomes (especially in “heat islands” where trees are scarce but concrete is abundant). Severe storms in Baltimore have caused flooding scenes in neighborhoods like Wilson Park and Beechfield, and rising tides threaten the waterfront Baltimore is so proud of. We know the effects of climate change are and will continue to be felt more acutely by our most vulnerable residents: the elderly, low-income individuals and families, and people of color.

I urge a favorable report on and expeditious consideration of HB831 so we can move Maryland toward a more sustainable, environmentally-friendly, and healthy future.

Existing building codes and construction rules were created for a different time, a time when our understanding of the effects of greenhouse gases on our environment was significantly less developed. This bill helps catch Maryland up and establishes clear rules for sustainable, all-electric construction of commercial and residential buildings. Additionally, through the creation of Building Emissions Standards and Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force, this bill contains important accountability mechanisms to transition existing buildings to be all-electric.

The bill also includes provisions for the inclusion of solar power and electric vehicle charging infrastructure at new buildings, important considerations when inefficient modes of transportation make up a sizable slice of the emissions that contribute to warming.

From city halls to statehouses to neighborhoods, there are so many ideas out there for becoming smarter and more environmentally conscious in how we live our lives. Climate change will affect all of us, and we all need to do our part.

For all those reasons, I urge a **favorable report**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Conway, Jr." with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark S. Conway, Jr.

cc:

Vice Chair Dana Stein

Del. Marlon Amprey

Del. Carl Anderton Jr.

Del. Regina Boyce

Del. Barrie Ciliberti

Del. Jerry Clark

Del. Linda Foley

Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo

Del. Jim Gilchrist

Del. Anne Healey

Del. Marvin Holmes Jr.

Del. Jay Jacobs

Del. Jay Jalisi

Del. Mary Lehman

Del. Brooke Lierman

Del. Sara Love

Del. Charles Otto

Del. Neil Parrott

Del. Roxane Prettyman

Del. Sheila Ruth

Del. Vaughn Stewart

Del. Jen Terrasa

Del. Melissa Wells

Del. William Wivell