



## TESTIMONY TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### HB0831: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings

**POSITION: Support**

**By: Nancy Soreng - LWVMD President**

**Date: February 25, 2022**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports **House Bill 831**, which updates emissions standards and provides funding for energy efficiency retrofits to commercial and residential buildings.

In 2017, commercial, residential, and industrial buildings in Maryland contributed nearly 20% of the state's overall greenhouse gas emissions. Globally, this number rises to 39%. **House Bill 831** would work to reduce the significant and detrimental environmental impact of this sector.

Aging buildings, and even some newer, conventionally built projects lack energy efficiency, requiring greater energy inputs to achieve desired utility results. The housing sector, in particular, could reduce energy consumption by 25% by implementing energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades. Though energy efficiency upgrades do require sometimes large initial investments, they serve to reduce energy costs in the long run, which is especially crucial for energy-burdened low-income households. **House Bill 831** would ensure that low-income households have access to these upgrades with little to no cost.

The state of Maryland must prioritize the energy efficiency of commercial and residential buildings to protect our environment and shield low-income households from burdensome energy costs. The League of Women Voters of Maryland strongly urges a favorable report by this committee on **House Bill 831**.

