



TO: Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB 831 - Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings
DATE: February 25, 2022

MEA POSITION: Letter of Concern

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) strongly supports policies that ensure energy reliability and resilience, as continuous access to energy has become a necessity, rather than a luxury. MEA does this while simultaneously supporting the development of renewable energy and creating meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

House Bill 831 requires MEA to terminate support for new construction within its programs that incentivize natural gas as an on-site resiliency measure as well as a generation asset. This may hinder or **eliminate the deployment of highly efficient combined heat and power, or “CHP”, that is popular for use in critical infrastructure facilities, such as hospitals and government facilities, as it helps them continue operations during catastrophic events.** It may also hinder or eliminate support for new construction in the existing Resilient Maryland Program which assists in the design phase of resilient campuses that can provide their own power during outages. These projects often use multiple energy sources, including, but not limited to natural gas. Lastly, the Maryland Energy Infrastructure Program may also face significant challenges, which has expanded energy options and aided in the development of energy infrastructure for historically underserved communities in Maryland, specifically in Baltimore City and Somerset County.

MEA appreciates the committee’s consideration of these remarks.