

February 23, 2022

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Testimony on:** HB831 Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings

**Position:** Favorable

Dear Delegate Stein, Delegate Barve, and all members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Alana Ginsburg and I am a student at the University of Maryland who is currently living in College Park. As a young person, I am disappointed that politicians and corporations make decisions to continue our toxic reliance on fossil fuels that diminish my chance to live in the future.

Our state has combated environmental threats before, and the less immediate impacts of greenhouse gas pollutants should not be an excuse to treat these pollutants differently. Climate change is one of the biggest threats to all of our collective securities, and it has been impossible to ignore the yearly rises in extreme weather recovery expenditures that have increased along with atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations <sup>1</sup>.

Stopping climate change at the source must involve cutting greenhouse gas emissions in all ways that we can, which our state can do by adopting the Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings Bill. All-electric standards for new buildings will result in newer construction being cheaper and will make integrating renewable energy into the electrical grid more practical. 75% of Americans favor these types of changes for new buildings, and narrow-minded fossil fuel corporations and gas utilities should not be able to overrule their opinions <sup>2</sup>.

Additionally, the 20% reduction in direct emissions by 2030 over 2025 emissions that the state will be able to achieve by following the recommendations of the bill will delay the rate at which the atmosphere is becoming more unstable. This will help make the impacts of climate change more manageable for all Marylanders.

I want an equal opportunity to finish my degree, get my dream job, start a family and all of the other milestones that come with making it past your twenties. I won't get to do these things if flooding regularly blocks roads that connect us to our homes and work, extreme heat waves frequently create dangerous conditions outdoors, and my community and peers have been demoralized from dealing with climate-change fueled weather events without support.

The Maryland General Assembly has the power to spare us from this worst possible future by passing the Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings Bill.

Thank you for protecting our state.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.rff.org/publications/reports/climateinsights2020-policies-and-politics/>