



TESTIMONY FOR HB0061
CHARTER COUNTIES - ENFORCEMENT OF LOCAL BUILDING PERFORMANCE LAWS
(BUILDING ENERGY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2022)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stewart

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0061 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Building emissions are one of the top three contributors to overall greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. Maryland has made it a priority to reduce greenhouse gases and work to become carbon neutral, and many Maryland counties have done their part to put in place measures that would help the state meet those goals. In some cases, counties pushed harder and created regulations, such as Building Energy Performance Standards, that exceed those of the state

We need to support those counties that are working hard to help Maryland, and by extension the world, have a greener future. We are in a crisis where we are paving the path to our own extinction by failing to act.

This bill would allow counties to enforce Building Energy Performance Standards by imposing a fine of not more than \$10 per square foot of gross floor area of a building. In allowing counties to do this, Maryland would benefit from the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.