



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 904

Public Utilities – Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions
– Alterations and Requirements

Date: March 2, 2023

To: House Economic Matters Committee

Position: Support

From: Doug Myers

Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 904 which recognizes that the fastest approach to reducing greenhouse gases is through improvements in energy efficiency, sets reasonable benchmarks for energy efficiency improvements and incentivizes the electrification of major household energy uses.

Maryland's commitment to greenhouse gas reduction will take bold and immediate action to achieve by its target date. Setting the pace for the rest of the country, Maryland can outline efficient policy changes which will bring about the fastest greenhouse gas reductions while slower utility infrastructure can be built.

Every day, we see evidence of climate driven changes in the bay watershed from more intense rainfall events, more frequent flooding tides and warmer water that holds less oxygen. Reducing greenhouse gases now will lessen those effects in the coming decades. More importantly, greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, is acidifying the bay's waters which could lead to less reproductive success in bivalve shellfish like oysters and clams¹. These climate changes are on a rapid pace that can be arrested with swift policy action.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 904.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ NOAA Chesapeake Bay Ocean Acidification Program. <https://express.adobe.com/page/wsYnSIC7TE7IG/>