



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DIVISION OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Shannon Moore, Director

SB 689– Energy Savings Act

DATE: February 27, 2023
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Support
FROM: Shannon Moore, Director, Division of Energy and Environment

Thank you for your consideration of SB 689: Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Alterations and Requirements (Energy Savings Act). As the Director of the Division of Energy and Environment in Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 689 a favorable report.

Frederick County Government has a number of robust programs designed to help constituents lower their energy bills and to reduce greenhouse gases, to include the Power Saver Retrofits program that provides energy audits and retrofits for low to moderate income residents; the Green Homes Challenge, a greenhouse gas reduction program (www.frederickgreenchallenge.org) with 2,495 participating households saving 16,302 MTCO₂E/yr; the Green Homes navigator who provides one-on-one support including multilingual support to participants needing help connecting to resources; and the Building Community Together partnership that helps Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (A.L.I.C.E.) and low income households through a quilt of homebuilding and retrofitting services from partner organizations. Despite these programs, there are looming issues with climate resilience for vulnerable households due to heat - and increasing numbers of A.L.I.C.E. households with energy burden.

SB 689 would help to address the needs of Frederick County residents in key ways:

- provide additional rebates for efficient heating and appliances;
- help ratepayers see greater benefits through home weatherization, building shell improvements, and more efficient home heating and appliances;
- help with fuel switching to electric where feasible;
- focus on goals for both energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction.

For these reasons, Frederick County is in support of SB 689– Energy Savings Act.

Thank you for your consideration. On behalf of Frederick County Government, I urge a favorable report.

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