



Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Testimony on: SB258- Department of General Services-State Buildings and Facilities - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: January 31, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB258. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB258.

According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, fuel use in buildings accounts for 16% of total emissions in the state.¹ State buildings are included in this calculation. Maryland should set an example and lead the way in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its buildings. This bill demonstrates the state's leadership in addressing climate change, while also making a real contribution toward GHG emission reduction.

SB258 strengthens the GHG emission reduction goals for state buildings from 10 % to 20% and extends the timeframe by two years (from 2029 to 2031). The bill also requires the Maryland Green Building Council, on or before October 1, 2024, to update the High-Performance Green Building Program to align with the State's goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. SB258 also requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to identify state-owned facilities that are potential candidates for energy savings performance contracts, and to work with state agencies on such contracts. Finally, the bill includes provisions for building audits and data collection on energy use and GHG emissions to be used in implementing energy conservation projects in state buildings. DGS must report on annual progress to the Governor.

We recommend a **FAVORABLE** report for SB258 in committee.

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Adat Shalom Climate Action

¹ Maryland Department of the Environment. [“Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Maryland: A Progress Report.”](#) Sept. 2022, page 6.

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
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