



February 14, 2024

112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Oppose- House Bill 210 – Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) respectfully oppose *House Bill 210- Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards*. House Bill 210 would modify the Maryland Building Performance Standards to require that new buildings meet all energy demands without the use of fossil fuels and adopt an electric-ready standard for buildings that receive a waiver allowing the use of fossil fuels.

Pepco and Delmarva Power are committed to electrification and decarbonization and we continue to work to align our operations, grid investments, and customer product offerings and services with Maryland's climate change and clean energy goals. The companies have demonstrated support for other key aspects of the suite of policies aimed at reducing emissions in the transportation sector, which makes up for about 45% of Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions, relative to buildings, which account for 13% of greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, we continue to support our customers and the larger community by providing the tools, programs and resources needed to enable the transition to a more equitable and inclusive clean energy future and greater resilience in the face of a changing climate.

In December 2023, the Department of the Environment (MDE) proposed regulations published in the Maryland Register to implement the building performance standards (BEPS) as outlined in the Climate Solutions Now Act . MDE is reviewing the many stakeholder feedback they received during the regulations comment period. Pepco and Delmarva Power participated in that process and submitted comments for consideration. Given the ongoing review of the regulations, House Bill 210 does not allow for MDE's current work on BEPS regulations to conclude and for the implementation process to begin. Additionally, the details and timeline set forth in House Bill 210 would be difficult to implement and likely cost customers more money than would a longer-term, deliberate plan to decarbonize, accounting for equity and affordability.

Pepco and Delmarva Power oppose House Bill 210 as it forces a rapid and significant shift in the state's future construction without considering the impacts of that change on all energy customers in Maryland and without considering the upcoming implementation of MDE's BEPS regulations. While Pepco and Delmarva Power support efforts to reduce GHG emissions, Pepco and Delmarva Power respectfully request that the Committee issue an unfavorable committee report on this legislation.

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