

February 14th, 2024

Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401



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

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

The ICSC Maryland Government Relations Committee respectfully opposes House Bill 210: *Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards*. ICSC is the marketplaces industry association supporting more than 45,000 members. In Maryland our industry supports 500,000 jobs and is responsible for nearly \$7.1 Billion in state sales and use tax revenue.

House Bill 210 would require that new buildings meet all energy demands without the use of fossil fuels by October 1st, 2026 for a building that is less than seven stories tall, and by October 1st, 2030 for a building that is more than seven stories tall.

ICSC is concerned with the large change in policy that this bill would mandate. In recent months, PJM has placed a strong emphasis on ensuring the grid's reliability in the face of electrification challenges. This potential policy's change in electrification may further strain the grid before its capacity is adequately addressed. In addition, the economic burden falls heavily on utility payers, and this transition could impact not just new building owners but the broader community due to an increased electricity demand.

We respectfully ask for an unfavorable report for this legislation.

Sincerely,
Eric McWilliams
ICSC Maryland Government Relations Chair

If you have any questions regarding this document or ICSC please contact Sushant Sidh (Sushant.Sidh@capitol-strategies.com)