



Senate Bill 807

Environment - Local Building Energy Performance Standards - Authorization

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

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From: Sarah Sample and Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 807. This bill allows counties to adopt and enforce local building energy performance standards that are at least as stringent as those adopted by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The timing for SB 807 is ideal as Maryland is still implementing Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) as required under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. The goal is for covered buildings to efficiently achieve net-zero direct greenhouse gas emissions and comply with energy use intensity targets by 2040. With some narrow exceptions, these standards are applied to both public and privately owned buildings that are larger than 35,000 square feet.

Counties appreciate the State's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution as well as promoting responsible energy use tracking and consumption. The ability to locally establish and enforce certain standards will allow counties to join in the State's effort to move progress along faster and only where they see fit. Additionally, the potential for counties to exercise new authority over standards and fees locally, appreciates that the needs and interests of local governments vary greatly.

With more tools to promote energy efficiency and responsible energy consumption, counties have the ability to be partners in this State lead endeavor and for those reasons MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 807.