



February 27, 2025

Legislative Position: Unfavorable

Senate Bill 807

Environment - Local Building Energy Performance Standards - Authorization

Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Dear Chairman Feldman and members of the committee:

Founded in 1969, the Howard Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to helping businesses—from sole proprietors to large international firms—grow and succeed. With the power of 700 members that encompass more than 170,000 employees, the Howard County Chamber is an effective partner with elected officials and advocates for the interests of the county's business community.

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce opposes SB 807, which would authorize counties to adopt local building energy performance standards. We believe that this type of regulation should be left to the state, and that passing this bill would lead to a patchwork of different standards across Maryland, creating confusion and uncertainty for businesses and property owners.

If this bill were to pass, we have no doubt that Howard County would be emboldened to follow Montgomery County's lead and adopt and enforce its own building energy performance standards. This would not only create an additional layer of bureaucracy and regulatory burden on our members, but it would also undermine the state's authority to regulate this issue.

Furthermore, the state's authority to regulate building energy performance standards is currently being challenged in federal court as being preempted by the Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA). We believe that it would be premature and unwise to grant counties the authority to regulate this issue while the state's own authority is still being litigated.

We urge the committee to let the federal lawsuit play out and ensure that there is a uniform and consistent approach to regulating this issue across Maryland. For these reasons, the Howard County Chamber of Commerce urges an **unfavorable report on SB 807**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristi Simon
President & CEO
Howard County Chamber of Commerce