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March 3, 2025

Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

Worcester County supports House Bill 1414, as it excludes public safety, emergency storm shelters, and public utility buildings from Building Energy Performance Standards requirements.

While we should all strive for energy efficiency where feasible, we need to ensure that during an emergency, critical buildings like police stations and storm shelters are fully functional. By exempting these from Building Energy Performance Standards requirements, this bill prioritizes our ability to protect human health and safety when disasters arise. In Worcester County, this bill would exempt our government center, which houses our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Sheriff's Office, from Building Energy Performance Standards requirements. It's critical EOC and law enforcement operations are able to function in an emergency.

House Bill 1414 is a commonsense way to ensure emergency response isn't impacted as the state moves forward with its clean energy goals. We urge you to issue House Bill 1414 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Theodore J. Elder

President

*Citizens and Government Working Together*