



HB0614 - – Education – School Building Energy Usage – Monthly Report

Testimony before Appropriations Committee

March 19, 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Kaiser, and members of the committee, my name is Crystal Konny, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB614**, Education – School Building Energy Usage – Monthly Report. This bill requires each County Board of Education to collect and report data on energy usage, and requires the Interagency Commission on School Construction to analyze the data and provide recommendations for improving school building energy efficiency and usage. We thank Delegate Wu for introducing this bill.

Heating and cooling costs have been rising significantly over the last few years and are taking a larger chunk of schools' budgets. Counties' Board of Education are not necessarily focused on building maintenance costs because their primary focus is education. Giving them an easy way to collect the information and then receive recommendations based on data analysis will help them reduce maintenance costs. Recommendations will be fact-based and done by experts, which County School Systems do not necessarily have. In addition, actions taken by the school systems will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is a win on multiple fronts, and it should not be at all costly to set up a collection and analysis tool.

I live in Howard County, and the school system here is constantly strapped for money and looking to reduce costs. The state government has the expertise to give our school system easy wins.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to pass the Education – School Building Energy Usage – Monthly Report bill. It is a no-brainer. Let's make Maryland an environmental leader. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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