



**Testimony for: HB0870 Maryland Building Performance Standards - Energy Conservation Requirements (Large Buildings for Tomorrow Act)**

**Bill Sponsor: Chair Korman**

**Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment**

**Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing**

**Person Submitting: Monica O'Connor – Co-Chair**

**Hearing Date: March 31, 2026**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0870. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on HB0870.

Large buildings in Maryland use enormous amounts of energy to heat and cool, are huge emitters of greenhouse gases, and are increasingly more expensive to operate. In 2022, Maryland passed the [Climate Solutions Now Act](#) (CSNA) requiring existing buildings over 35,000 square feet to comply with Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS). The goal of Maryland BEPS is to document and analyze building energy usage through benchmarking, reach zero net direct GHG emissions by 2040, and improve energy efficiency for Maryland's buildings. These upgrades reduce energy usage and cut heating and cooling costs. However, making improvements to existing buildings are expensive and time consuming. It is less costly to incorporate building energy performance into new buildings at the beginning rather than to retrofit buildings later.

HB0870 addresses this issue by directing the Department of Labor to adopt by regulation, the International Building Code, including the International Energy Conservation Code, for new construction of buildings 35,000 sq feet or over beginning October 1, 2028. Adoption of these codes into Maryland BEPS ensures that future buildings avoid expensive upgrades because they will comply with energy efficiency standards when constructed. These buildings will consume less energy, be less polluting, and be cheaper to heat and cool.

Maryland must use every tool in its toolbox to address the dual crisis of high energy demand and skyrocketing energy costs. Large Buildings of Tomorrow is a common-sense hedge against wasteful energy use in the building sector. For these reasons we ask for a favorable vote on HB0870 in committee.

350MoCo

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Climate Law and Policy Project  
Climate Communications Coalition  
Climate Parents of Prince George's  
Climate Reality Greater Maryland  
ClimateXChange  
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
Echotopia  
Elders Climate Action Maryland  
Fix Maryland Rail  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
HoCoClimateAction  
Howard County Indivisible  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Maryland Energy Advocates  
Maryland Third Act  
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund  
Mobilize Frederick  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
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Sierra Club Maryland Chapter  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter  
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