



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: HB 870 - Environment - Permit Applications for New Buildings - Notice (Large Buildings for Tomorrow Act)

DATE: March 31, 2026

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Energy Administration respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill 870 (HB870).

HB 870 builds upon the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector, adopting conservation regulations for new buildings that are subject to the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS). This will apply to large commercial and multifamily buildings. Over time, these buildings will be required to reduce their direct greenhouse gas emissions and meet site energy use intensity (EUI) performance targets.

Maryland's building sector is the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, driven primarily by on-site combustion of fossil fuels for heating, hot water, and other building operations. Addressing emissions from large buildings is therefore not optional, it is essential to meeting the State's climate commitments. Energy efficiency and building modernization remain among the most cost-effective methods to reduce emissions, lower operating expenses, enhance resilience, and support grid reliability. BEPS provides the structured, data-driven framework necessary to advance these outcomes at scale.

MEA urges the committee to issue a **favorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.