



TESTIMONY FOR HB0870

Maryland Building Performance Standards - Energy Conservation Requirements (Large Buildings for Tomorrow Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Korman

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0870 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland has worked hard to reduce greenhouse gases and take care of our environment. One of the hardest things to do in terms of reducing greenhouse gases is to retrofit existing buildings. Existing buildings produce almost one third of all greenhouse gases in the state.

The real issue is that this isn't a static problem that we can throw resources at. We continue to build new buildings all the time. Why, then, would we make the problem worse by building new buildings that we then have to add to the pile of buildings to retrofit?

This bill, if enacted, would require all new large buildings to be built to comply with the same Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) that they would have to comply with in the future. If a local jurisdiction has BEPS that are more stringent than the state-wide standards, the building would have to be built to the local standards.

This makes sense from every perspective. Building with the standards in mind is NOT more expensive than building without them. However, retrofitting the building is VERY expensive.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.