



Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 19, 2026

Senate Bill 479 – *Environment – Building Energy Performance Standards and Energy Use Intensity Targets – Exemptions*

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State’s largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State’s life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 479.

Senate Bill 479 provides a practical approach to implementing building energy performance standards for existing facilities. Many technology-intensive complexes operate with specialized, high-load electrical and cooling systems that are designed for continuous use. Allowing buildings that received a use and occupancy permit before June 1, 2022, to remain in compliance until they need to replace their systems ensures that energy upgrades occur at a logical and cost-effective point in a building’s lifecycle. This approach prevents the premature replacement of fully functional infrastructure, reduces unnecessary financial burdens on property owners, and allows facilities with specialized power and operational requirements to plan improvements along the timeline they expected. Requiring premature retrofits of functioning systems would impose significant capital costs without delivering proportional energy benefits.

The measures in this bill appropriately align compliance timelines with natural equipment replacement cycles, allowing businesses to plan responsibly, while still advancing the State’s long-term environmental goals. This measured approach protects Maryland’s competitiveness in attracting and retaining high-growth technology industries, while ensuring that efficiency improvements occur in a cost-effective manner. For these reasons, MTC requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 479.

**For more information call:**

Andrew G. Vetter  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000