



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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## Senate Bill 479 Environment - Building Energy Performance Standards and Energy Use Intensity Targets - Exemptions

**Date:** February 19, 2026

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

**Position:** UNFAVORABLE

**From:** Matt Stegman,  
MD Staff Attorney

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES Senate Bill 479**, which would exempt buildings covered by Maryland's Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) that have received an occupancy permit prior to 2022 from certain energy use intensity targets until key systems like lighting systems or HVAC systems fail or reach the end of their useful lives.

Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 requires a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2031 (from 2006 levels) and net-zero emissions by 2045. To reach these ambitious goals, Maryland is adopting an "all hands on deck" approach that asks multiple sectors to act urgently to reduce emissions. SB 479 would slow adoption of BEPS energy intensity standards and jeopardize our progress towards our statewide goals. Existing law and regulation gives the Maryland Department of the Environment sufficient discretion to work with individual property owners to achieve compliance, or to exempt buildings where compliance is not possible or would impose a serious hardship.

**CBF requests the committee's UNFAVORABLE report on SB 479.** For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*