



HEARING DATE: February 19, 2026

BILL NO/TITLE: SB479: Environment - Building Energy Performance Standards and Energy Use Intensity Targets - Exemptions

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy & the Environment

POSITION: **Support**

Maryland Motor Truck Association offers its strong support of Senate Bill 479.

Senate Bill 479 provides a balanced and practical approach to achieving Maryland's ambitious energy and climate goals while recognizing the economic realities faced by businesses and property owners across the state. The bill would allow for the delay of compliance with the state's Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) until a covered building's major components—such as lighting, HVAC, or other systems—require replacement due to failure or the end of their useful life.

As currently structured, BEPS will impose significant financial burdens on property owners by requiring costly retrofits to meet stringent emissions and energy efficiency standards. Many Maryland businesses will bear the cost of compliance, creating new financial challenges at a time when economic conditions are already strained. For older buildings in particular, compliance may require extensive and expensive energy retrofits or alternative compliance payments.

SB 479 ensures that compliance with BEPS is phased in responsibly by allowing buildings that received a use and occupancy permit before June 1, 2022, to meet these requirements only when major systems reach the end of their useful life.

BEPS compliance is projected to cost building owners billions of dollars in retrofits statewide. Senate Bill 479 represents a pragmatic solution that ensures progress toward energy goals without destabilizing Maryland's business climate or placing undue financial pressure on property owners.

For the reasons noted above, MMTA urges a favorable report.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association that has represented the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 900 members, MMTA is committed to support, advocate and educate for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry in Maryland.

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