

2/25/2026

HB0988



Ocean City, Maryland Chamber of Commerce

410-213-0144 info@oceancity.org
oceancity.org 12320 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD 21842

TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF **THE GREATER OCEAN CITY MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

IN SUPPORT OF:

HB0988 – Environment - Building Energy Performance Standards - Repeal

Before:

House Environment & Transportation Committee
Hearing: 2/27/2026 at 1:00 PM

HB0988 – Protection and Labor and Employment – Food Service Facilities and Minimum Wage repeals provisions of Maryland law that established building energy performance standards for certain large buildings, referred to as "covered buildings," which are defined as commercial or multifamily residential buildings, or state-owned buildings, with a gross floor area of 35,000 square feet or more. These repealed standards, originally intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from these buildings by 20% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2040, also mandated annual emissions reporting by building owners and allowed for alternative compliance through fees. The bill also makes conforming changes to housing and community development law, removing references to the repealed energy performance standards program.

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 700 regional businesses and job creators, **FULLY SUPPORTS House Bill 0988.**

Repealing these standards allows the market to determine energy efficiency without government mandates. Strict regulations may hinder innovative building practices and technologies. Property owners should have the freedom to manage their own properties without excessive government interference. Many energy-efficient practices are already incentivized through tax breaks and rebates, reducing the need for mandates. Different regions have varying energy needs and climates, making one-size-fits-all standards ineffective. The actual energy

2/25/2026

HB0988

savings from these standards may be minimal compared to the cost incurred. Implementing and enforcing standards can create bureaucratic hurdles and inefficiencies. Stricter regulations could lead to job losses in the construction and real estate sectors. And finally, compliance can impose significant costs on property owners and developers.

For the above reasons, **HB0988** would have a beneficial impact on our small business community. The Greater Ocean City Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0988**. Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly on 410-213-0144 should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Thompson

Amy Thompson
Executive Director
amy@oceancity.org

Bob Thompson

Bob Thompson
Legislative Committee Chair
bob@t1built.com