



Testimony for: HB0870 Maryland Building Performance Standards - Energy Conservation Requirements (Large Buildings for Tomorrow Act)

Bill Sponsor: Chair Korman

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Person Submitting: Monica O'Connor – Co-Chair

Hearing Date: February 25, 2026

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0870. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on HB0870.

Large buildings in Maryland use enormous amounts of energy to heat and cool, are huge emitters of greenhouse gases, and are increasingly more expensive to operate. In 2022, Maryland passed the [Climate Solutions Now Act](#) (CSNA) requiring existing buildings over 35,000 square feet to comply with Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS). The goal of Maryland BEPS is to document and analyze building energy usage through benchmarking, reach zero net direct GHG emissions by 2040, and improve energy efficiency for Maryland's buildings. These upgrades reduce energy usage and cut heating and cooling costs. However, making improvements to existing buildings are expensive and time consuming. It is less costly to incorporate building energy performance into new buildings at the beginning rather than to retrofit buildings later.

HB0870 addresses this issue by directing the Department of Labor to adopt by regulation, the International Building Code, including the International Energy Conservation Code, for new construction of buildings 35,000 sq feet or over beginning October 1, 2028. Adoption of these codes into Maryland BEPS ensures that future buildings avoid expensive upgrades because they will comply with energy efficiency standards when constructed. These buildings will consume less energy, be less polluting, and be cheaper to heat and cool.

Maryland must use every tool in its toolbox to address the dual crisis of high energy demand and skyrocketing energy costs. Large Buildings of Tomorrow is a common-sense hedge against wasteful energy use in the building sector. For these reasons we ask for a favorable vote on HB0870 in committee.

350MoCo

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Law and Policy Project
Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
ClimateXChange
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
Howard County Indivisible
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Energy Advocates
Maryland Third Act
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland