

February 27, 2026

Dear Housing Environment and Transportation Committee,

Several months ago, staff from Action in Montgomery came to my apartment to [test the level of pollution emitted by my gas stove](#)*. After lighting the gas burners, the level of Nitrogen Dioxide in my kitchen reached 200 ppb, a level that the EPA deems VERY UNHEALTHY for OUTDOOR air.

I was scared by these results because I am sensitive to air pollution. In June, 2023, when our region was blanketed by smoke from Canadian wildfires, I developed a cough and other symptoms. I was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis which often affects firefighters. Since then, I have asthma-like sensitivities for which I take daily medication. Breathing any kind of smoke brings on symptoms. Tragically, we can anticipate that more Marylanders will be getting sick from these kinds of events because of climate change.

These personal experiences bring me here to urge you to protect the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF), by passing HB1040 so that every year these funds are used for clean energy and electrification, and specifically direct funds for a program to replace gas stoves with induction stoves.

However, that's not all. I live in a luxury apartment building in downtown Bethesda, so my building shouldn't need a subsidy to electrify. However, when I asked my landlord to replace the gas stove in my apartment, the response was that it would cost too much money to rewire the building. I think building owners should be required to upgrade their buildings to protect tenants from gas emissions and I hope that the legislature will consider such a mandate.

I am writing here for myself and not on behalf of any organization, however my engagement with this issue is informed by my faith. I am a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation's Climate Action Team. Our congregation participates in SEA Change and supports Action in Montgomery and the Just Power Alliance. In preparing for this testimony I was reminded of the biblical commandment: "When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, so that you do not bring bloodguilt on your house if anyone should fall from it." (Deuteronomy 22:8) Our rabbis have interpreted this commandment to mean that we as a community must anticipate potential harm and act proactively to eliminate the danger even if it exists on private property.

Now that we know that burning gas in our homes is dangerous, what are we waiting for?

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* <https://beyondgasdc.org/cooking-up-danger-community-study-reveals-hazardous-nitrogen-dioxide-levels-in-dc-and-maryland-kitchens/>