



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

---

## House Bill 988

### Environment – Building Energy Performance Standards – Repeal

**Date:** February 27, 2026

**To:** House Environment & Transportation Committee  
House Economic Matters Committee

**Position:** UNFAVORABLE

**From:** Gussie Maguire,  
MD Staff Scientist

---

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES House Bill 988** which repeals the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS), an important tool for meeting the state’s climate goals. The BEPS program requires that commercial, multifamily residential, and state-owned buildings of a certain size meet net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

In addition to contributing to climate change through the release of greenhouse gases, natural gas and other fossil fuels emit nitrogen oxides, which account for a significant proportion of nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Electrification of buildings reduces emissions from natural gas-fueled furnaces, water heaters, and dryers, which worsen both indoor and outdoor air quality, but much of Maryland’s electricity still comes from fossil fuels. Stringent requirements for energy efficiency and net zero emissions in buildings subject to BEPS, paired with the state’s ongoing progress towards renewable energy generation, will help move the state closer to its climate and energy use goals. Repealing BEPS imperils significant investments in and progress made towards those goals, while also continuing to endanger the health of Marylanders and our ecosystems.

**CBF urges the Committee’s UNFAVORABLE report on HB 988.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

*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.*