



House Bill 988

Environment – Building Energy Performance Standards - Repeal

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 25, 2026

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

Worcester County supports House Bill 988.

While we applaud the state's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and want to be part of that, we believe a successful transition away from fossil fuels and toward electrification needs to be handled thoughtfully and carefully, with consideration of the many factors involved.

The Climate Solutions Now Act mandated expensive improvements for large buildings throughout the state. Here in Worcester County, where the proximity of the ocean leaves us prone to hurricanes and coastal flooding, it only makes sense for facilities to maintain diversified energy portfolios. Repealing the Building Energy Performance Standards as they stand would allow us to do that.

Furthermore, Maryland is already dealing with rising energy costs and grid instability driven by increased demand. It seems irresponsible to push even more responsibility to the grid before supply issues have been addressed. This will only exacerbate Maryland's energy problems.

We urge you to provide this bill with a **favorable** report. Thank you.