

Sayers, Margery

From: Neal Goturi <nealgoturi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:00 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 181 Students Urging Support of CB5 and 22 Student Letters
Attachments: Students for CB5 - Letters-20230117T021349Z-001.zip

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Neal Goturi and I'm a student at River Hill High School.

I, along with **180** other students, are urging you to support CB5-2023 as we recognize the importance of electrification and the urgent need for the change it heralds. The 182 names below have learned about CB5 and signed off on these letters, developed by HoCo Climate Action, advocating to both the County Council and Dr. Ball's administration. You can also refer to this [spreadsheet](#) to access the names.

Moreover, **19** students, including myself, and two student groups have written personal letters addressing the Council in support of CB5, connecting personal perspectives and experiences to the facts of the Bill. Attached to this email is a google folder containing my letter addressing the Council on CB5 and the 20 other student letters. These letters provide student perspective on the deleterious effects of gas on health, finance, equity and climate.

I found the letters written by Alexandra Gess, Noelle Goitom and Shrihaan Chaudhary particularly insightful.

I implore the Council to keep the younger constituents of Howard County in mind when voting on CB5 as the youth are unified in support of CB5.

Best,
 Neal

Here are the students urging you to pass CB5:

Aahil	Syed
Abby	Shim
Adam	Bahrain
Adebusola	Adeleke
Adithi	Venkata Akella
Aditi	Yegnasubramanian
Akhil	Gurram
alex	masih
Alexander	Michos
Alexandra	Gess
Alicia	Antony
Alicia	Spooner

Alyssa	Young
Amedeus	Kayisavera
Amelia	Stevens
Andrew	Zhang
Aneesh	Puranam
Angela	Long
Anita	Huang
Anjali	Gangalam
Anna	Conroy
Annie	Jia
Annika	Przyzycki
Anuhya	Puranam
Anumita	Kohli
Armitta	Nafisi
Ashna	Jolad
Aziz	Dawood
Babiha	Kaur
Bansi	Gogineni
Barbara	Lembas
Bennet	Ababio
Bethel	Burk
Blen	Mekonen
Brandon	Ho
Brielle	Brade
brooke	laumann
bryan	lin
Carly	Hart
Cathy	Whitney
Charan	Bala
Cici	Huang
Cindy	Yu
Claire	Daly
Clara	McKnight
Connor	Chun
cora	cheer
Dani	Chng

Dayo	Abu
Debbie	Aina
deirdre	curtin
Dekema	Vaughn
Dennis	Lee
Dhenuka	Nagaraj
Dinobi	Offurum
Donald	Zhuang
Dylan	Sanders
Dylan	Watson
Edelyn	Rivera
Elaria	Boutros
Eli	Tapia
Eliana	Roberts
Elise	Runser
Ella	Pham
Ella-Ciel	Williams
Emily	Zagnit
Erin	Larson
Esther	Kwon
Ethan	Tsay
Evan	Trost
Evan	Tran
evelyn	Runser
favour	osunji
Gabe	Murray
Georgia	Schwab
Gilda	Babilah
Guadalupe	Vasquez
Hailey	Park
Hannah	Shen
Henry	Kim
Inaya	Ahmed
J	Nguyen
Jack	Smoot
Jack	Hardman

Jamie	Fetterolf
Jenna	Rossi
JJ	Salter
Joana	Sargunar
Johanna	Abey
Johmari	Rumble
Johnathan David	Musselwhite
Jordan	Oh
Julia	Cabacar
Kamarya	Buckley
Kanishk	Pal
Karell	Clement
Karis	Park
Katherine	Cho
Kyle	Gettier
Liam	Gardner
luca	sambat
Lucas	Spangler
Madiha	Rehman
Maneet	Mehta
Maria	Greco
Mariesa	T. Hernandez
Mark	Antony
Mark	Berg
Mathumitha	Vaithyanathan
Matteo	Washington
Matthew	Kim
Matvei	Kholmovski
Maya	Chan
Mia	Pruett
Michael	Cao
Mischa	Nowrangi
Mohammad	Abukhdeir
Morgan	Bao
Morgan	Downing
Nafisa	Ali

Nathan	Markos
Natty	Abiliy
Neal	Goturi
Neha	Kukatla
Neithraa	Bacon
Nevina	Abey
Neya	Koshnam
Nikhil	Murrauvla
Noah	Erlar
Noelle	Goitom
Noelle	Markos
Odile	Kayisavera
Olya	Abraham
Patrick	Torre
Raaga	Seshadri
Rachel	Mathew
Rachel	Bowers
Ranvitha	Kassey
Ria	Johnson
Richard	Shi
Rishika	Patibandla
Riya	Patel
Rowah	Abdelghani
Sachin	Jani
Sahej	Batra
Sai	Hansika Vegesna
Salma	Zaghari
Samuel	Yoon
Sana	Yousuf
Sarah	Pan
Sara	Khan
Sarah	Chin
Saranya	Bisi
Sathvika	Vippala
Shirley	Zhang
Shivali	Shah

Shrihaan	Chaudhary
Shriyans	Nareddy
Shyla	Narula
Sitara	Chakkamadathil
Sofija	Simendic
sofya	agrawal
Sophia	Chudnovsky
Sreeya	Krishnakumar
Sri	Ravella
Stephanie	Moses
Suhani	Patel
Sumaylla	Llivichuzhca-Loja
Sunny	Wu
Tania	Mostoufi
Taylor	Person
Tej	Vaishnav
Thomas	Li
Timmothy	Kim
Tiya	Mehta
Tyler	Fath
Victoria	Nganga
Victoria	Qin
Victoria	Salicru
Weiyang	Li
Wengail	Yohannes
Yaazhini	Dhamodharan

Sayers, Margery

From: JAMIE MCINTOSH <jamie@gentlegiants.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 4:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB1 - 2023 Tax Credit

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to show support for CB1-2023, a bill to allow for the automatic renewal of the property tax credit for properties held within the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. This bill will eliminate excessive paperwork and make the process more efficient for both the County and for farm owners. It reduces the time required by County staff to implement the agricultural tax credit, as they will no longer need to facilitate an annual application process. It also creates less burden for the farm owner who will no longer need to remember to file for this credit annually, helping to minimize paperwork so the farm owner can spend more time focusing on the business of farming.


Thank you for your consideration,

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JAMIE MCINTOSH

Treasurer | Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue

 jamie@gentlegiants.org  443-285-3835
 17250 Old Frederick Rd. Mt. Airy, MD 21771
 www.gentlegiants.org



Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Aahil Syed and I am a 10th grader at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

I still have so much of my life ahead of me. I still have to drive my first car, get my first job, even get into my dream college. If the world that I live in is actively and slowly dying, I would look for ways to fix it. I want to be able to do all of these things in my lifetime, but if climate change continues, I fear that I will not be able to live long enough.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. The UN reports that as global levels of CO2 rise, the world will face: hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming, and rising ocean, not enough food, more health risks, and poverty and displacement. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century and the time to act is now! We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Aahil Syed

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Akhil Gurram and I am a tenth-grader at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

CB5-2023 is the next step toward fighting climate change here in Howard County, an issue that grows more and more prevalent by the day. Local change is the first stepping stone: small-scale action must be done before larger programs are implemented. If every county stops burning fossil fuels, as CB5-2023 builds up to, the effects will be enormous. The threat climate change poses is not to be taken lightly. I already feel it in my day-to-day life, especially these past couple of weeks. Around three weeks ago, there was an extreme cold spell, with temperatures dropping below the 20s. Afterward, temperatures went back up to 50 and even 60 within a couple of days. Not only does this make it difficult to go about personal life, but also school life. Schools will not switch from heating to air conditioning just to accommodate a week of unusually high temperatures, and because of this, the classrooms became even more hot and stuffy. Everyone, including teachers, became irritable. No one wanted to teach, learn, or do anything. These are just the small-scale, personal effects. The impact Climate change has on a global and even county-wide level is preposterous.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number will only go up. The UN reports that as global levels of CO2 rise, the world will face: hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming, and rising ocean, not enough food, more health risks, and poverty and displacement. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century and the time to act is now! We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Akhil Gurram

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Alexandra Gess and I am a sophomore at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

There are people all over the globe who are unfortunate who do not have the money to support themselves or their families are constantly ignored and that has become a more common thing especially ever since the COVID-19 pandemic. Here in Howard County, people are considered to be rich, HoCo is one of the richest counties in Maryland. It seems like change is only brought when a rich person is affected or a person of status is affected. That shouldn't be the case. That can't be the case. I don't want to live in a community that only thinks about its highest earning members. I believe that if we think about those less fortunate in Howard County, electrification becomes an easy decision. The fact of the matter is that gas in Maryland is slated to become much more expensive over the coming years. The Maryland Office of People's Counsel estimates that the average BGE gas customer will experience a 57% bill increase over the next 12 years. Families already struggling to make ends meet will be forced to make tough decisions about whether to keep the heat on or buy other necessities such as medicine. Electrification is a lifeline that our community can offer to lower income residents that ensures that they will be able to live comfortably in their homes while sacrificing other parts of their budget.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Gess

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Amelia Stevens, and I am a sophomore at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Gas infrastructure is proven to be detrimental to human health. The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use, and the Oxford International Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having asthma. Gas stoves are a public health crisis that children are particularly vulnerable to and near powerless to prevent. Electrification allows for the phasing out of harmful gas infrastructure and then for the building of homes that are healthier and better suited for human life.

Gas in Maryland is also slated to become much more expensive over the coming years. The Maryland Office of People's Counsel estimates that the average BGE gas customer will experience a 57% bill increase over the next 12 years. Lower socio-economic communities will bear the brunt of this consumer crisis, and people will start to have to make budgetary concessions or be unable to keep their home heated. However, Rewriting America found that 99% of households in Maryland would save money on energy bills if they transitioned to modern electric infrastructure.

My mom is the CEO of CLASP, a non profit that works to make appliances more energy efficient in order to combat climate change. For my entire life, I've watched her face fall as global temperatures climb. I've watched her worry about me and my younger sisters growing up in a warming world with rising sea levels, polluted air, increased extreme weather events, and disappearing species. I've watched her fight a seemingly endless problem.

When I think about my future, talk about it with friends and family, I cannot help but worry that in 30 years, the planet will be so destabilized that I will not have a job to go to and a home to which I can return. Poverty, homelessness, and mass migration will continue to get more frequent given the current climate trajectory. Electrification of buildings and homes is a tangible way to prevent this future.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century, and the time to act is now!

We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we

tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Amelia Stevens

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Aneesh Puranam and I am a 10th grader at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024. I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

I believe fighting climate change is very important, and it is a must do to help preserve the younger generations. We may think that climate change does not have such a significant impact in our lives, but climate change affects us everywhere. We are already feeling warmer summers due to global warming, and many places around the world are getting hotter and the demographics of the world are changing due to the constant use of fossil fuels, allowing CO₂ and methane emissions. By being able to fight climate change, we are able to provide a path to a healthier world, no matter if the change is big or small, where everything makes a difference to help improve the future of the world! The younger generations would be able to live in peace and be more healthy, not having to live in fear of what the world may become.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. The UN reports that as global levels of CO₂ rise, the world will face: hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming, and rising ocean, not enough food, more health risks, and poverty and displacement. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century and the time to act is now! We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Aneesh Puranam

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Anuhya Puranam and I am a 10th grader at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Natural gas stoves emit air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide at such high levels that the US Environmental Protection Agency and World Health Organization have said are unsafe and linked to respiratory illness, cardiovascular problems, cancer, and other health conditions. Moreover, tests conducted by Consumer Reports found that gas stoves emit high levels of nitrogen oxide gas, which can irritate airways. Consumer Reports even urged consumers to purchase electric stoves after performing these tests.

Gas infrastructure is horrible for human health. Furthermore, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use; the Oxford International Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma. Gas stoves are a public health crisis that children are particularly vulnerable to and near powerless to prevent. Electrification allows for the phasing out of dangerous gas infrastructure and thus builds homes that are healthier and better suited for human life.

Sincerely,
Anuhya Puranam

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Catherine Whitney and I'm a highschool student in the Howard County Public School System.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Although Howard County is a wealthy area, there are still families who struggle to make ends meet. I think it's wrong for us to make decisions without taking careful consideration of how they affect all members of the community. It's safe to say that gas infrastructure harbingers a lot of problems for poorer communities as gas in Maryland is slated to become much more expensive over the coming years. The Maryland Office of People's Counsel estimates that the average BGE gas customer will experience a 57% bill increase over the next 12 years. Lower socio-economic communities will bear the brunt of this consumer crisis as people will start having to make budgetary concessions or be simply unable to afford to keep the heater on. On the other hand, Rewriting America found that 99% of households in Maryland would save money on energy bills if they transitioned to modern electric infrastructure.

I also love taking walks through nature and seeing small animals such as squirrels and rabbits in their natural habitat. I also hope to travel to the beach with my friends in the future. I know that climate change threatens these things that I hold dear. I believe it's important that my elected officials take steps to ensure that the future I inherit is bright.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. We must use a "stop the bleeding" mentality and stop residential gas combustion from spreading before we try to shrink it. Electrification is the answer to that, thus, I urge you to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Catherine Whitney

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Charan Bala and I am a sophomore at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

I am inheriting the future and I want it to be bright. Climate Change threatens that future. I love taking walks through nature and I know that if we do not do something about our carbon footprint, that could be put at risk. I also want to visit tropical countries like the Maldives and Fiji; rising oceans predicted by climate change threaten that. I don't want myself or my children to lose those experiences.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. The UN reports that as global levels of CO2 rise, the world will face: hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming, and rising ocean, not enough food, more health risks, and poverty and displacement. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century and the time to act is now! We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again , to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Charan Bala
District 5

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Clara McKnight and I am a sophomore at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

I believe that climate change is absolutely preventable and although it is a hard wrong to undo, it is possible. Howard county is a very driven county and certainly has the resources to help. A great step in fighting this global tyrant that is global warming, is enacting the CB5-2023. By helping with this issue we can make not only a huge difference in our communities but also throughout our nation and world.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. The UN reports that as global levels of CO2 rise, the world will face: hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming, and rising ocean, not enough food, more health risks, and poverty and displacement. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century and the time to act is now! We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and subsequently, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold and necessary step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight climate change.

I urge you again , to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Clara McKnight

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Elise Runser and I am a sophomore at River Hill School.

On January 3, Council member Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

When I turned 7, my family moved to Hawaii for 5 years. Our home had an electric stove and we found it easy to use and especially easy to clean. Growing up I felt like the air in my home was fresher and cleaner and there is now empirical evidence to support that. The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use; the Oxford Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma. Electrification allows for the phasing out of dangerous gas infrastructure and thus builds homes that are healthier and better suited for human life.

Moreover, I recognize that low-lying islands such as Hawaii are extremely threatened by the effects of global warming. I want to make sure that I'll be able to return to Mililani, Oahu in the future and for its natural beauty to be maintained. According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Elise Runser

Dear Howard County Council,

We are the student leadership of the Firefly Club of River Hill High School. We are a student service, learning and advocacy club that seeks to provide students with the opportunity to make a positive impact in their community. After only forming in the spring of 2022, the Firefly Club has gained over 134 members.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

We are writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

From the inception of the club, environmental policy and climate change have been one of the main interests of students as they recognize the necessity for climate action. Students are worried about the future and rightly so; the climate crisis threatens to drastically change the world as we know it. Students further recognize that the solutions for climate change are available and it's now a matter of implementation. They want to see their leaders implement climate solutions.

That's why the Firefly club worked to educate students in Montgomery County about the need for electrification and that is why the Firefly Club is writing to the Council urging support for CB5 and a commitment to further strong climate action.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
(Your Name)

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Mohammad Abukhdeir and I am a Sophomore at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Howard County is home to a wide variety of people on the socioeconomic spectrum. We can't ignore the members of our community who were the most vulnerable to the recent economic crises, such as those struggling to keep up with rising gas prices. When an opportunity arises to help our fellow Howard County residents in need, we must do everything in our power to ensure that we use the opportunity to the best of our abilities. Thanks to council member Rigby, one of these chances is now upon us. Please consider how much good moving away from gas dependent construction will do for our community, while deciding your vote regarding CB5-2023.

Gas in Maryland is slated to become much more expensive over the coming years. The Maryland Office of People's Counsel estimates that the average BGE gas customer will experience a 57% bill increase over the next 12 years. Lower socio-economic communities will bear the brunt of this consumer crisis as people will start having to make budgetary concessions or be simply unable to afford to keep the heater on. On the other hand, Rewriting America found that 99% of households in Maryland would save money on energy bills if they transitioned to modern electric infrastructure.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Mohammad Abukhdeir

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Neal Goturi and I am a sophomore at River Hill High School. I am passionate about energy and the role it plays in our lives. I believe it's imperative that we constantly try to improve the world around us to make it safer, more equitable and ultimately more prosperous. I take the independent research course offered by the Howard County Public School System where I study the future of the American energy landscape. In my months of reading scientific articles, analyzing data and discussing my ideas with professors and industry experts, I've realized that academia has a consensus: the future of America is electric. Fossil fuels are unstable, unequal and they are quite simply, antiquated.

Thus, I was elated to learn that on January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

In 2012 my family moved to a home, built in 2011 with a gas stove. All throughout elementary school, I had severe asthma and it limited my ability to participate in PE, have fun in sports and play outside. Recently, troves of evidence have come out highlighting the respiratory danger of gas stoves; most importantly, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use. In the past few years, gas stoves have become a known risk factor for asthma and I'm unsure to what extent the gas stove contributed to my asthma.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code; I recognize the importance of CB5 and the electrification it predicates. For that reason, I've spent the last two weeks educating and organizing students all over Howard County about CB5. Every student I spoke to about CB5 supported the bill as they also recognize that electrification is necessary to secure the future; over 180 students have signed off in support of CB5. The climate crisis resonates with students and they are looking towards their elected officials for action. We students are inheriting the future, yet we often feel like we're powerless to shape it.

Climate change is a global problem with global impacts but the solution is local. 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. Change starts from the ground up and unless communities band together and work towards the common good then there is little hope for the future.

Even though it's "midterms season" more than 25 students took it upon themselves to write a personal letter in support of CB5. Each and every one of them were able to connect the empirical evidence I presented about the need to electrify with their own personal experiences. I find that extremely powerful and I would hope that the County Council does as well. They're letters are attached to this email and I implore you to hear the voices of your younger constituents.

These students are aware of the economic need for electrification; gas is slated to become 56% more expensive in the next 12 years. They are also passionate about the equity aspect of this projection because as prices go up, low-income families will have to start making budgetary concessions in order to keep the heat on.

The facts are clear: electrification helps health, makes society more equitable, is an economic necessity and a necessary first step in fighting back climate change. I hope that my letter has shown that electrification is also vehemently supported by the younger generation.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Neal Goturi

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Neha Kukatla and I am a sophomore at Glenelg High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Last summer, I attended Georgetown University's Public Policy and Social Medicine Program. There, I learned the various ways in which air quality impacts the public health of myriads of people around the world. It is an undeniable fact that the negative impacts of poor air quality is felt so broadly across our county. When it is known that poor air quality causes people to become far more susceptible to diseases and directly results in countless health defects, why are we not making a greater effort to ensure good air quality? It is easier to prevent damage than it is to clean it up. If we don't start making conscious efforts to protect and preserve our air quality now, then we will face the impending, steep consequences in the future. Looking at the trends of our nation's air quality will indicate that it is only declining with no signs of improvement, so we need to do something innovative to help shift direction: pass this bill.

Gas infrastructure is horrible for human health. Furthermore, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use; the Oxford International Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma. Gas stoves are a public health crisis that children are particularly vulnerable to and near powerless to prevent. Electrification allows for the phasing out of dangerous gas infrastructure and thus builds homes that are healthier and better suited for human life.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Neha Kukatla

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Noelle Goitom, and I am a sophomore at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023. This bill would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code. This bill would be monumental as it is doing its part to end the fossil fuel industry and its unseen negative impact on lower-income people of color worldwide.

It is an indisputable fact that burning fossil fuels disproportionately affects lower-income communities of color. Several studies have shown that toxic waste sites and coal-fired power plants are more likely to be found near communities of color, exposing them to poisonous air and causing significant health risks. The harmful pollution from pipelines, drilling sites, and processing plants has increased the risk of cancer for one million Black Americans and 101,000 lost school days for Black children.

The untold story is that the industry has also funded violence, exacerbated poverty, and shortened lives worldwide. For example, in Sudan, the oil industry perpetuated and became the main objective and a principal cause of a civil war. The war resulted in "acute poverty, approximately two million deaths, the displacement of four million people, and 420,000 refugees." Another example is Nigeria, where oil and gas account for over 80% of the nation's wealth. The exploitation by the fossil fuel industry in oil extraction stripped indigenous people of their rights to these natural resources. In the industry's thirst and greed for oil, equating to money, their protests were silenced by mercenaries funded and operated by the oil and gas transnational companies.

One may wonder what this has to do with Howard County, but the support of Howard County retains an impact on the industry. In the calendar year 2020, Howard County emitted 62,323 metric tons of greenhouse gas and consumed 1,170,922 gallons of petroleum fuel. Switching to electric-powered buildings would boycott and essentially cut off Howard County's support for this flawed, greed-filled industry.

In conclusion, not only is continuing the burning of fossil fuels bad for the environment, as we all know, but it is unethical in its disproportionate effect on poor communities/nations and people of color. We cannot continue to support an industry that has continuously overlooked and aided violence, and so we must do our part to put an end to the fossil fuel industry. So, I urge you again to vote in favor of CB5-2023.

Sincerely,
Noelle Goitom

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Samuel Yoon, and I am a sophomore at Glenelg High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Climate change is like an infection in our bodies. If we destroy the source, then we end the sickness. By rapidly reducing our emissions, we can solve all issues and concerns about climate change. I will be affected by today's actions and refuse to remain silent. If we do something now, then we will make it easier for ourselves in the future. We can prevent catastrophic events and save millions of dollars by taking action today. However, if we do nothing, our fight will be more challenging tomorrow. With each passing day, it grows more expensive and difficult to cope with the effects of climate change. Natural disasters grow more frequent and destructive, increasing government spending. Habitats and species will become eradicated, and the economy will grow more unstable. The time to act is now.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. The UN reports that as global levels of CO2 rise, the world will face: hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming, and rising ocean, not enough food, more health risks, and poverty and displacement. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century and the time to act is now! We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Samuel Yoon

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Sara Khan and I am a sophomore at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Over the summer, I traveled to Kerachi, Pakistan to visit family and I was absolutely with the environmental state of the nation. Massive floods destroyed the city I was in and we could not leave our building. Over 33 million other people were affected by the flooding that destroyed communities and lives. The flooding in Pakistan was caused by climate change and global warming. If we do not work to curb our carbon emissions, the tragedy in Pakistan will become commonplace. I recognize that carbon emissions are a global problem with global impacts but the solution happens at the local level with bills like CB5. According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Sara Khan

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Sarah Pan and I am a freshman at Marriotts Ridge High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

It's easy to forget the effects of climate change: after all, we don't see the standard image of melting ice caps every day. I once believed I was free—that climate change would not affect me or that the effects will only set in after a few decades, but climate change is already here. I think to myself, isn't it strange how just in one week, temperatures went from freezing cold to warm spring weather? Other places in the world are already experiencing the ramifications of climate change! Just look at Jackson, Mississippi, where the people could not drink water, a bare necessity, or Pakistan, where more than one-third of its land was submerged underwater (at least 1,100 lives were lost from this incident). Remember the Old Ellicott City floods? With carbon emissions rising, those floods become more frequent and devastating. The hurricanes reported by the news, wildfires, heat waves, any natural disasters, are all a byproduct of climate change. We don't have to accept the devastating effects of climate change, nor do we need intricate solutions to this problem. Small steps can be the answer. It's important that we, as a county, find ways to cut back on our use of fossil fuels. Only by cutting back on fossil fuels, can we significantly reduce our carbon emissions. Electrification is a crucial step in this process.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. The UN reports that as global levels of CO₂ rise, the world will face: hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming, and rising ocean, not enough food, more health risks, and poverty and displacement. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century and the time to act is now! We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Sarah Pan

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Shrihaan Chaudhary and I am a 10th grader at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

My entire family is genetically prone to asthma, and due to this I also suffer from conditions of intermittent asthma, including shortness of breath and occasional wheezing. My family has a gas stove within our home, and I am left to wonder whether my condition would be better if we had an electric convection range instead. Perhaps the gas range worsens the conditions of asthma that would not be present or become milder if we had electrification in this county. Every time I have visited family in India my breathing problems have increased tenfold, causing biweekly breathing problems to happen on the regular, due to the exceptionally poor air quality in India. Perhaps those biweekly strains in breathing could be eliminated or reduced through electrification, and so I urge the County Council to pass CB5-2023 in order to aid cases like mine.

Gas infrastructure is horrible for human health. Furthermore, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use; the Oxford International Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma. Gas stoves are a public health crisis that children are particularly vulnerable to and near powerless to prevent. Electrification allows for the phasing out of dangerous gas infrastructure and thus builds homes that are healthier and better suited for human life.

I urge you again , to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Shrihaan Chaudhary

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Tania Mostoufi and I am a junior at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Good air quality is necessary for the development and improvement of life in our community. Most adults attend work on a weekly basis, and children go to school daily. Thus, the health of Howard County residents should not be at risk when in these buildings frequently. Children and adults exposed to dangerous gas infrastructure will have long term ailments that may hinder their health in the long term. Having buildings with unsafe air quality in our community is neglecting the health and well-being of our residents.

Gas infrastructure is horrible for human health. Furthermore, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use; the Oxford International Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma. Gas stoves are a public health crisis that children are particularly vulnerable to and near powerless to prevent. Electrification allows for the phasing out of dangerous gas infrastructure and thus builds homes that are healthier and better suited for human life.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Tania Mostoufi

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Tiya and I am a 9th grader at Marriotts Ridge High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

I believe if a detrimental problem is found, it is our duty to take necessary measures to make adjustments. We the children and future of this community deserve to live a long healthy life without the risk of being harmed through everyday appliances.

Gas infrastructure is horrible for human health. Furthermore, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use; the Oxford International Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma. Gas stoves are a public health crisis that children are particularly vulnerable to and near powerless to prevent. Electrification allows for the phasing out of dangerous gas infrastructure and thus builds homes that are healthier and better suited for human life.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Tiya

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Victoria Qin and I am a sophomore in the Howard County Public School District.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

Howard County does not work unless it works for all of us. I value equity in my community and I want to make sure that we make decisions with all parts of society in mind; that includes people who are less fortunate. Howard County would not be a county without every single citizen who lives in it, and the only way the county will advance is if every single citizen advances with it as well. We cannot leave anyone behind culturally, socially and economically. That includes home utility bills.

Gas in Maryland is slated to become much more expensive over the coming years. The Maryland Office of People's Counsel estimates that the average BGE gas customer will experience a 57% bill increase over the next 12 years. Lower socio-economic communities will bear the brunt of this consumer crisis as people will start having to make budgetary concessions or be simply unable to afford to keep the heater on. On the other hand, Rewriting America found that 99% of households in Maryland would save money on energy bills if they transitioned to modern electric infrastructure.

I urge you again, to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Victoria Qin

Dear Howard County Council,

We are 9 energy conscious high school students of the Energy Action Team of the Howard County Conservancy's Youth Climate Institute; we recognize the importance of the intersection between energy and climate.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

We are writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Furthermore the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use; the Oxford International Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma. Gas stoves are a health risk that children are particularly vulnerable to and near powerless to prevent. Electrification allows for the phasing out of dangerous gas infrastructure and thus builds homes that are healthier and better suited for human life. Moreover, gas in Maryland is slated to become much more expensive over the coming years. The Maryland Office of People's Counsel estimates that the average BGE gas customer will experience a 57% bill increase over the next 12 years.

We firmly assert that gas infrastructure is a thing of the past and that the future is electric. We urge the Howard County Council to embrace the future and vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
YCI Energy Action Team

Sayers, Margery

From: Albert Holm <holm_albert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 7:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote for CB5 - Clean New Buildings Climate Act

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

We need it desperately!

We should have started this process decades ago. But we didn't. Now, it's down to doing things at the last minute, on an emergency basis. But if we don't start now, it will be even harder and worse for the people of Howard County, of Maryland, and of the United States in the future. And if we start now, even though it is late, we'll have a jump on those jurisdictions that have their heads in the sand.

Please vote "Yes"

Albert Holm

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 6:37 PM
To: ibensinger@comcast.net
Subject: District 3 - (CB5-2023) Clean New Buildings Climate Act

First Name: Irma

Last Name: Bensinger

Email: ibensinger@comcast.net

Street Address: 3300 Roscommon Drive

City: Glenelg

Subject: (CB5-2023) Clean New Buildings Climate Act

Message: Thank you for introducing the Clean New Buildings Climate Act (CB5-2023). This important piece of legislation will help Howard County move closer to our states goals of reducing GHG emissions.

Testimony to Howard County Council in support of [CB5-2023](#)

January 17, 2022

Position: Favorable

County Council members,

I am writing in support of [CB5-2023](#) which directs the Howard County Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits (DILP) to *report* to the County Council by Dec. 29, 2023, describing the changes needed to the county building code to require all-electric heat and other appliances in new buildings and major renovations, and to recommend exemptions to the rule. Ultimately, I support the new building code being implemented with the Spring 2024 building code revisions although I understand this is just the report for now. I wish this bill was stronger but something is better than nothing.

There are so many reasons to support electrification of new buildings and major renovations. To name a few:

- The climate is changing faster than expected, and we need to do something NOW. In Howard County, we are seeing record-breaking temperatures, drought conditions, and then rain deluges that our creeks and waterways cannot handle. Solutions to the stream issues are expensive and don't always work. Howard County has to be part of the solution to our climate emergency.
- The legislation is needed to achieve county climate commitments. County Executive Calvin Ball's 2022 executive order mandates that the county achieve net zero emissions by 2045, surpassing both federal and state goals." We need strong legislation quickly to get to this goal.
- Buildings are the principal source of greenhouse-gas emissions that Howard County can control. That's the bottom line- do something where you can. About 11% of the county's greenhouse gas emissions are produced by the direct combustion of fossil fuels in homes and other buildings, mainly for heat, hot water, and cooking.
- Howard County must look at the long run and not allow new buildings with a possibility of operating for fifty years to start burning fossil fuels now.
- Indoor gas combustion is also a significant public health risk. This topic has been all over the news lately, so I don't need to list those statistics.
- The indoor pollution from fossil fuel burning is greatest in small homes and apartments without direct external exhaust, which magnifies the harms for low-income residents.
- There is evidence to suggest that all-electric buildings cost less to build, and less for owners and tenants to maintain.
- The Grid *can* handle an all-electric construction code.
- The price of renewable energy is falling fast, and the price of fossil fuels is projected to increase. Howard County residents and businesses do not want to be locked into these skyrocketing energy costs.

- The Maryland Utilities themselves project that repair costs for *their leaky systems* under the Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement Plan (STRIDE) program (the costs of which are a surcharge on ratepayers utility bills) will rise from \$150 million annually (2022) to **\$450 million annually** by 2044. (The Office of People's Counsel likened the gas utilities to having a credit card with no spending cap with **ratepayers footing the bill**). Let's stop building this infrastructure out.
- Heat pumps have come a long way in the past 20 years, and now can work effectively at 5 degrees Fahrenheit, and some as low as -15.
- And all electric is cleaner than gas with less leakage in the infrastructure.
- Maryland's grid will eventually be clean, so it is *not* a reason to reject this legislation

Ten years ago, I switched from an electric to gas stovetop. Just five years ago, we replaced our gas furnace with another gas furnace. I am kicking myself! I wish I'd have known then what I know now. But we do know now, and we must act on that knowledge if we are going to mitigate climate change at all for our kids and grandkids. You all must act now.

DC and Montgomery County passed bills in 2022 requiring that electrification of new buildings be included in the next cycle of building code updates. In Howard County, the next building code update occurs in March/April 2024. Let's keep up with DC and Montgomery County!

Thank you,
Crystal Konny and Brian Costello
11605 Dark Fire Way
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: BarbaraMatheson@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 12:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CB 5 with Amendments

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

My name is Barbara Siddle Matheson, and I live at 11301 Willow Bottom Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21044, District 4. I am writing to urge your support of **CB5**, to require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to report to the County Council with recommendations of changes to the Howard County Building Code needed to require all-electric buildings.

This a very *basic, essential action* BEFORE we can begin to meet the goals set by Dr. Ball and the county to reduce Green House Gas emissions by 60% by 2030 and attain net zero by 2045. It is in keeping with Climate Solutions Now Act passed by the state. However, I am concerned that **more be done and more expediently. It is important to re-evaluate exemptions which defeat the purpose of the bill. Climate Crisis is clearly accelerating.**

As evident in the 2022 Annual Report, Howard County is an exceptional community. Much has been accomplished. We are not burdened by many of the problems facing other communities. Therefore, it should fall to us to take a position of national leadership in finding solutions to climate issues – reducing carbon emissions in a fair and just way. This we have not done. Look to DC and Montgomery County for better examples. **Lead the way.** We are a highly educated and compassionate community who will applaud your efforts.

CB 5 Clean New Buildings Climate Act – Favorable

January 17, 2023



The Honorable Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CB5-2023

POSITION: Support

County Council Members:

I thank the Council for the opportunity to testify in support of CB5-2023. My name is Carl Latkin. I have lived in Howard County for over 25 years. I am also a professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Tonight, I am speaking as a representative of the Howard County Sierra Club.

Climate change will have a massive harmful impact on our children's financial, physical, and mental health. We must make climate change mitigation a top priority for Howard County.

I applaud the leadership of the County for purchasing electric vehicles. However, the Council must go further and enact policies that lead to more meaningful and measurable reductions in County-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Electrifying new buildings to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is essential, impactful, and highly feasible.

As a public health professional, I would like to emphasize the public health benefits of switching to all-electric buildings. I would like to focus on three common harmful pollutants produced by gas stoves and other gas appliances: benzene, CO₂, and NO₂.

Annually leaks from gas stoves in the U.S. have a climate impact comparable to the CO₂ emissions from approximately 500,000 cars (Michanowicz, et al., 2022). In one study of gas stoves, benzene, a known human carcinogen, was found in 99% of samples (Lebel et al., 2022). Moreover, even when gas stoves are turned off, they have the potential to leak enough benzene to create indoor concentrations comparable to secondhand smoke. Benzene is also emitted while gas stoves are being used.

Several studies have documented that NO₂ causes and exacerbates asthma (Belanger, et al., 2013; Lin et al., 2013). The EPA estimates that homes with gas cooking appliances have 50% to over 400% higher levels of NO₂ compared to homes with electric stoves (U.S. EPA, 2008). In one study of children with asthma, the NO₂ levels were eight times higher in homes with gas stoves compared to those with electric stoves (Belanger et al., 2006). Research also finds that exhaust fans are not used most of the time when cooking, and a significant proportion of harmful gases are not captured even when exhaust fans are meticulously used (Klug et al., 2011).

Based on CDC national asthma prevalence estimates (CDC, 2020), there are likely to be over 28,000 Howard County citizens with asthma. Over 4,500 of these cases are children, with higher rates in young boys and people of color. Children living in a home with a gas cooking stove have a 42% increased risk of current asthma (Gruenwald, et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2013). Consequently, over 3,000 cases of asthma in Howard County can be attributed to gas cooking appliances.

Electrifying buildings is also a social justice issue. The price of methane gas is estimated to climb sharply over the next few decades and will have the most negative impact on low-income households. Hence, building affordable housing and increasing rental units without electrifying new buildings, and subsidizing the replacement of gas systems will impoverish people in Howard County who have the fewest resources. Fortunately, there is major funding under the federal Inflation Reduction Act and programs being developed by the State of Maryland for electrification. Delaying building electrification will only hurt more low-income residents who have no choice in the type of energy systems in their residences.

Based on the urgency of addressing climate change and improving the health of Howard County citizens, I strongly urge you to support CB5-2023. I should also mention that building electrification is a key component of the Howard County preliminary Climate Action Plan. This is a clear choice between the profits of developers and the health and well-being of our citizens. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify for the Howard County Sierra Club.

Sincerely,

Carl Latkin, Ph.D.

Executive Committee member, Howard County Sierra Club

References

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**CB5-2023 - Building Code – All-Electric Buildings – Department of
Inspections, Licenses, and Permits - Recommendations
Testimony before Howard County Council**

January 17, 2023

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Council Members,

My name is Ruth Auerbach, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing testimony today to support CB5, to require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to report to the County Council with recommendations about changes to the Howard County Building Code that would be needed to require all-electric buildings. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are grateful for the leadership of Councilwoman Rigby for sponsoring this bill.

This bill positions the county to make changes to the building code that would improve health and assist the county in reaching its climate goals. County Executive Ball's Executive Order 2022-12 on "Commitment to Climate Action" states that Howard County's "climate goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emission for all public and private sectors across the county 60 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2030." Indivisible Howard County strongly supports this goal. Updates to building codes is one of the main levers that Howard County has to achieve it. By requiring the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to prepare recommendations for updating the building code to require new or substantially altered buildings to be all-electric, the county will be able to adopt a new building code that allows us to meet our climate goals.

However, we encourage the Council to adapt a stronger and more effective version of this bill. Specifically, we are concerned about the broadness of the exemptions. For instance, we recommend the exemption for the listed building types be limited to equipment and appliances used for cooking only. We don't recommend exemptions for space heating, service water heating, clothes drying, and lighting. Too many exemptions may hinder the County from achieving its climate goals, and electrification measures are readily achievable in these areas.

Personally, for 19 years, I have lived in an all-electric house built in the 1980s. I find that electric power meets all my needs, and it is nice to not worry about the risks that natural gas in the home creates.

We respectfully urge passage of this bill, with strengthening amendments.

Ruth Auerbach
9455 Clocktower Lane
Columbia, MD 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Gail Holm <gailholm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 10:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote for CB5 2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I'm writing to urge you to pass *CB5 2023, Building Code - All-Electric Buildings - Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits - Recommendations*. This legislation is a step in the right direction to decrease the level of greenhouse gases in Howard County. The Howard County Building Code must be changed to require that new construction be all-electric. These changes must be made and enacted as soon as possible.

I'm sure you're aware of the dire state of our planet due to greenhouse gas emissions. Creating new construction that depends on fossil fuels would just accelerate us down the path to oblivion. CB5 allows that natural gas could have limited use in some situations, such as major renovations and restaurants. However, new buildings must be all-electric. This is an existential necessity.

We have to stop global warming. Our children and grandchildren are depending on us.

Again, I strongly urge you to vote for CB5 2023.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Gail P. Holm

10081 Fair Beauty
Columbia 21046

--

Gail P. Holm
(she, her)

Sayers, Margery

From: SUSAN WHITE <whitehogan@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 8:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB5-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to support the Clean New Buildings Climate Act submitted to the Council by Christiana Rigby. I was pleased to learn of this bill and am heartened that my County is joining other forward-looking jurisdictions across the U.S. which are working proactively to address climate change. I urge the Council to adopt this critically important Act to protect and preserve the health of our community and our beloved Howard County. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,
Susan P. White
8853 Stonebrook Lane
Columbia Md. 21046
Whitehogan@verizon.net

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Shelley VHJ <shelleyvhj@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 6:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CG5-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council members:

Please support CG5-2023 and revise the codes to support electrification in new Howard County buildings.

Thank you,

Shelley Von Hagen-Jamar

9213 Osprey Court

Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul Verchinski <verchinski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 6:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Paul L Verchinski
Subject: CB5-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I ask that you vote AGAINST this bill. Another Report just kicks the can down the road. We need to start now by prohibiting all new gas connections for new construction in HoCo. That MIGHT affect 500 units. Meanwhile those 500 units will have appliances that will live on for another 20 to 30 years before being replaced.

Paul Verchinski
5475 Sleeping Dog Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: justemailjebster <justemailjebster@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 1:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for the Clean New Buildings Climate Act

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Esteemed Howard County Council Members,

I am writing in support of the proposed legislation to limit the use of natural gas for new construction within Howard County.

In truth, I would prefer to use natural gas myself, but we all must make sacrifices to stave off climate change, and my preference for natural gas is of little importance when compared to the global crisis we all face. Using electricity from clean, renewable sources, rather than fossil fuels, is one big step we can make toward avoiding what is shaping up to be the greatest catastrophe to ever befall the human race.

Please adopt the Clean new Buildings Climate Act, and help preserve our climate, or planet, our future security, our lives and the lives of future generations.

Respectfully,

James "Jeb" Bateman
9597 Clocktower Lane
Columbia, MD 21046
410-797-7700

My name is Rochelle Ginsburg, and I am a 21 year resident of Howard County. I am writing in support of CB5-2023, The Clean New Buildings Climate Act.

As a senior citizen, I feel I must do my part to advocate for measures which will bend the curve on the climate crisis we're currently experiencing. We owe this to our children and their children.

I feel fortunate to be living in a county in which the County Executive, by executive order, has committed to the State's goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2045 with an interim county goal of a 60% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030.

One contribution to reaching this goal we must undertake is to stop the building of homes designed to burn methane or propane for heating and cooking. All electric homes currently emit less greenhouse gas contributions to climate change, and are healthier and safer for residents. As renewable contributions to our electric grid increase, all electric homes will become increasingly cleaner. There will also be economic benefits to homeowners (and renters) as there is data which indicates all-electric homes cost less to build and, with energy-efficient electric heat pumps and appliances, will have lower energy costs.

I ask that the Council support this bill which will fund the expertise needed to develop the changes required in our county building code for the construction of all electric homes. I ask for the support of the Council and the County Executive for continued support of residential building electrification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rochelle Ginsburg
5413 Spindrift Place
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Berg, Kel
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:31 AM
To: Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David; Jung, Deb; Walsh, Elizabeth
Cc: Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Harrod, Michelle R; Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB5-2023

Council members, this testimony came in to the Boards email.

Kel L. Berg
Howard County Council Boards Office
Administrative Assistant
410 313 3114

From: Clara McKnight <clara.bean6751@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 7:26 AM
To: CouncilBoard@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: CB5-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

My name is Clara McKnight and I am a sophomore at River Hill High School.

On January 3, Councilmember Rigby introduced CB5-2023, a bill that would require the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions, in the spring of 2024.

I'm writing to ask for your support of this bill and further support of a strong electrification statute in the Howard County Building Code.

I believe that climate change is absolutely preventable and although it is a hard wrong to undo, it is possible. Howard county is a very driven county and certainly has the resources to help. A great step in fighting this global tyrant that is global warming, is enacting the CB5-2023. By helping with this issue we can make not only a huge difference in our communities but also throughout our nation and world.

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. The UN reports that as global levels of CO2 rise, the world will face: hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming, and rising ocean, not enough food, more health risks, and poverty and displacement. The Climate Crisis is the greatest threat of the 21st century and the time to act is now! We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Everyone must do their part to save our environment and

ultimately, ourselves. By electrifying Howard County, this council takes a bold step in reducing carbon emissions and doing its part to fight carbon emissions.

I urge you again , to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Clara McKnight

Sayers, Margery

From: Harrod, Michelle R
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 7:47 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: Fwd: CB5-2023

Testimony

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From: Berg, Kel <kberg@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 7:45 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Gelwicks, Colette <cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>; Harrod, Michelle R <mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: FW: CB5-2023

Forwarding to Christiana.

--kel

From: Clara McKnight <clara.bean6751@gmail.com>
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I urge you again , to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

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Clara McKnight

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I urge you again , to vote in favor of CB5-2023 and to enact a strong electrification code within our county in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Clara McKnight

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:46 PM
To: rmhessey@gmail.com
Subject: District 4 - HoCo electrification report bill, CB5-2023,

First Name: Robin
Last Name: Hessey
Email: rmhessey@gmail.com
Street Address: 10768 McGregor Drive
City: Columbia
Subject: HoCo electrification report bill, CB5-2023,

Message: Dear Council person Jung, I strongly support CB5-2023, the bill that requires the department responsible for building code revisions to submit recommended changes for new building electrification by December 2023. I am asking you to please support this bill and to revise the HoCo building codes in 2024 to include new building electrification. I think this would be a very important step forward in protecting our climate. Thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: Fw: CB5-2023

Testimony

From: Jim Sarlanis <jns1960@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:29 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB5-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Deb.

I'm writing to ask you to support CB5-2023, the electrification support bill. We need to be as aggressive as possible to limit the devastating effects of global warming to our planet and our economy. This would be one step moving our country in that direction.

Respectfully yours,
James Sarlanis
10727 Cottonwood Way
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 7:35 PM
To: holm_albert@yahoo.com
Subject: District 3 - CB05-2023

First Name: Albert

Last Name: Holm

Email: holm_albert@yahoo.com

Street Address: 10081 Fair Beauty

City: Columbia

Subject: CB05-2023

Message: Thank you for introducing this bill! I hope it passes this session. And if it doesn't, I hope it passes next session. We need this!