

new

CB5-2023



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Carl Latkin, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Sierra Club to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Carl Latkin

Signature: Carl Latkin

Date: 1/9/23

Organization: Sierra Club of Howard County

Organization Address: P.O box 278, Riverdale, MD 20738

P.O box 278, Riverdale, MD 20738

Number of Members: 1,179

Name of Chair/President: Carolyn Parsa, Sierra Club Howard County Chair

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Doug Siglin, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Chesapeake Climate Action Network to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Doug Siglin

Signature: Douglas V. Siglin

Date: 1/6/2023

Organization: Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Organization Address: 6930 Carroll Ave Takoma Park MD 20912

6930 Carroll Ave Takoma Park MD 20912

Number of Members: 106743 total, 24289 in MD, 1021 in HoCo

Name of Chair/President: Mike Tidwell

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**Statement for the record of Doug Siglin
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
in support of CB5-2023 January 17, 2023**

Chair Rigby, Vice-Chair Jung, Councilmembers Jones, Walsh, and Yungmann, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

I want to start by invoking Jim Rouse. Working in Washington for the past 40 years, I have met dozens of illustrious people. But there have been none whom I admire more than Mr. Rouse, whom I met in the early 1990s when my wife Kris worked for him at the Enterprise Foundation. Mr. Rouse is remarkable because he imagined something that had never existed but was demanded by the times—a whole new city, economically, racially and religiously integrated—and then made it happen. Today Howard County is one of the best places on earth to live, a living testimony to his vision.

I hope that you too will begin tonight to imagine something else that *never has existed but is demanded by the times*—a healthier, 100% clean energy-powered Howard County—and then, like him, have the courage and the determination to make it happen.

Tonight you are hearing from dozens of Howard County students who are stepping forward to ask you to first pass this bill, and then to go well beyond it, to create a healthier Howard County that does not contribute to climate chaos. Those are the people who are going to be here 40 or 50 years from now. It is their world that you must have the political will to build.

The last eight years have been the hottest in recorded history. There is an irrefutable scientific consensus now on the relationship between rising greenhouse gas emissions and crazy climate disruptions. Despite all our efforts, greenhouse gas concentrations are still going up. The costs of climate chaos are already enormous, globally and here in the United States. In 2022 there were 18 separate billion-dollar weather disasters in the US. In 2021, there were 20, and the year before there were 22. *The average of 1980 (the first year that records were kept) to 2010 was just over five.* The aggregate cost of the past seven years was over a *thousand billion dollars* and *hundreds of deaths*. In the first two weeks of this year, 20 billion more dollars and three dozen more lives were wasted. Even if you are conservative—especially if you are conservative—you should be appalled at these numbers and actively seeking ways to quit making them worse.

It may still be news to some people that burning propane or refined methane gas indoors (what the industry falsely calls “natural gas”) is bad for the planet and bad for our health. The methane gas industry has spent millions of dollars over the years to convince people that burning gas is good, just like the tobacco industry spent millions to convince people that cigarettes are good. In the 1930s, the American Gas Association put “now we’re cooking with gas” in the mouth of one of America’s beloved comedians. More recently we see “clean-burning natural gas” on buses and garbage packers. This is just false advertising. Refined methane gas may be marginally better than coal or diesel fuel, but it’s a long way from clean. In 2021, methane gas combustion in the US contributed *1,657 million tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, in addition to millions of tons of climate-killing methane leaked all along the way from drilling to*

appliances. Closer to home, we now understand that burning unvented methane gas indoors is terrible for children and older people. There is testimony tonight from nationally prominent public health experts about gas causing or triggering asthma and other respiratory distress that you should listen carefully to.

Governments around the globe are rapidly moving away from fossil fuels for electric production, for industry, and for end uses such as home appliances. The challenge is global, but in many cases the solution is in the decisions made by local officials such as yourselves. As you surely know, with great privilege comes great responsibility. Howard County should be *leading* America's localities to get rid of fossil fuels, showing the nation's other three thousand counties what is possible. Electrification of future buildings is a modest way to start *and it isn't even that big a deal*. Despite what the American Gas Association and other industry apologists will tell you, modern, comfortable, energy efficient electric homes—heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, induction stoves—are nothing resembling a sacrifice. In fact, they are often cheaper to build, always cheaper to operate, and much healthier for home and building owners and tenants than propane or methane gas. They contribute to a better quality of life for everyone.

We know that the various industries enjoying the status quo will object to you considering a future building electrification policy, since every industry meets policy-driven change with desperate arguments that the sky will fall. More insidious than that, we know that they will use every available political technique, no matter how expensive or unethical, to convince you. You'll feel significant pressure to protect the status quo—to *not to even ask the Executive for an electrification report*. The fact is that methane gas has become a fuel whose time has expired, like whale oil, kerosene, and coal. Time and again, despite all their objections, industries profiting from the status quo have adapted and evolved and continued to prosper when policymakers have had the courage to stand up and declare that the status quo has become intolerable for the people they are chosen to represent.

I appreciate Councilmember Walsh raising future building electrification several months ago, and I appreciate Dr. Ball's executive order setting ambitious goals for the county's greenhouse gas reductions. I especially applaud Chair Rigby for introducing CB5 and beginning a serious discussion of how to actually implement those greenhouse gas reductions. Here's what I'd ask you to do in this bill, or in other initiatives this year:

- 1) Work together as a Council to amend the bill to be more expansive about what the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits must report on to meet the county's greenhouse gas reduction goals, including the feasibility of certain net-zero commercial or institutional buildings, and then vote to pass the bill;
- 2) Create a task force or some other means to develop your own expertise, so that if the DILP fails to give you an adequate report on what has to be done to electrify future buildings, you'll be able to legislate your own electrification building codes;
- 3) In the budget, fund DILP and the other executive departments involved in climate change more generously so they can hire or engage additional expertise to do the job right;
- 4) Encourage the County Executive to develop a robust program to help people to switch out their current gas-burning appliances as the appliances near the end of their lives,

leveraging federal and state funds to the greatest possible degree. It is going to be a critical step in eliminating the 11% of the county's greenhouse gas emissions caused by direct combustion of propane, fuel oil, and methane gas in homes and buildings;

- 5) Similarly, encourage the County Executive to follow through on his Earth Day 2022 pledge to join the White House's National Building Performance Standards Coalition, and then take the required steps to begin to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing commercial buildings. Again, we cannot hope to eliminate that 11% unless we start peeling back emissions from existing buildings.
- 6) Codify the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in the executive order so that future County Executives must stay on the path to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

Jim Rouse was well known in his day for repeatedly saying "What ought to be, can be, with the will to make it so." Rapidly transitioning Howard County to a clean energy future not only ought to be done but must be done. The costs of inaction are truly enormous.

In a speech near the end of his life, Mr. Rouse said "May we raise up in this country an army of thinking that this job ought to be done, can be done, and will be done." Please be the army that leads Howard County resolutely down the road that the times demand, first by passing CB5, and then by embracing new opportunities to get Howard County to a clean and health net-zero future.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Jonathan Wilson, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

National Center for Healthy Housing, Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jonathan Wilson, Deputy Director

Signature: Jonathan Wilson

Date: 1/16/2023

Organization: National Center for Healthy Housing, Inc.

Organization Address: Columbia, MD 21044

Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: -

Name of Chair/President: Amanda Reddy, Executive Director

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

Testimony in Support of Council Bill 5-2023
By: Jonathan Wilson
National Center for Healthy Housing (nchh.org)
10320 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Suite 200
Columbia, MD 21044
January 17, 2023

Good evening. My name is Jonathan Wilson, and I am the Deputy Director of National Center for Healthy Housing. NCHH is a national nonprofit founded 30 years ago right here in Howard County. Over those 30 years, we have earned a reputation as a credible organization that integrates research, capacity building support and advocacy to reduce health disparities nationwide.

I'm speaking today in support of Council Bill 5-2023. Specifically, I will be sharing information about the health concerns related to gas stoves and other gas appliances within our homes. This is a topic that has been researched for at least 50 years and one that NCHH has worked on for the past decade.

The evidence continues to grow that the use of gas stoves poses a serious risk to our health. Just this past week, many of you likely saw or heard new reports of how 1 in 8 cases of asthma in the U.S. can be attributed to the use of gas stoves. This is on the order of cases of asthma that are attributed to second-hand tobacco smoke.

In addition to causing asthma, exposure to the combustion gases from gas stoves and other unvented gas appliances can trigger asthma exacerbation, also known as an asthma attack. Burning natural gas within a home generates many pollutants including nitrogen oxides. Homes with gas stoves routinely have nitrogen dioxide levels that are 2-3 times higher than homes that cook with electric. Levels of nitrogen dioxide found in homes with gas stoves can irritate the respiratory airways. This can result in coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. One study found that children with asthma were 50% more likely to experience asthma symptoms and 78% more likely to need rescue medication when exposed to nitrogen dioxide levels commonly found in homes with gas stoves compared to levels found in homes where residents cook with electric.

Respiratory diseases like asthma create stress on a whole household. Care plans must be followed, doctor visits must be made, and medications must be purchased and taken. For a person with asthma, a simple common cold combined with an environmental exposure can trigger symptoms that require rescue medicines or more. There are more than 700,000 emergency department visits each year in the US because of asthma. Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism and the fourth leading cause of lost workdays. Tragically, more than 3,500 deaths in the US are directly attributed to asthma annually.

This issue of gas stoves and respiratory health is also an equity issue. Asthma rates increase as family incomes decrease. Lower income residents are more likely to be renters who in a tight housing market have little ability to choose whether the dwelling they rent has gas or electric. Nationally, one third of rental housing have gas stoves. For too many vulnerable people, the argument that gas stoves is just a choice is clearly not true.

Some have argued that the solution to gas stove pollution is better ventilation. The best approach would be having a range hood that extracts the contaminated air from the kitchen. Unfortunately, most homes

do not come with kitchen range hoods that exhaust to the outside, and our building codes do not require them. When range hoods are installed, surveys have found that residents tend not to use them, often because the fans are too noisy, or they are viewed as something to use only when you have burned something. Kitchen exhaust fans may work in the lab, but there is little evidence that they work for most people in the real world.

Another approach that weatherization agencies use is installing a bath exhaust fan that runs constantly. It is a successful strategy to improve indoor air quality, but NCHH has completed two studies that found that in homes with gas stoves, the nitrogen dioxide levels are no better with constant bath ventilation.

Even with all of this evidence of the health dangers of gas stoves, NCHH is not calling for a ban on gas stoves. Instead, we seek a thoughtful and planful transition to an electrified built environment. CB5-2023 offers such a path forward. It directs the Howard County government to recommend all-electric building standards for new construction, major additions, and alterations by the end of 2023. This is sensible legislation that among many benefits will make Howard County residents healthier. That is why NCHH supports this legislation.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Isaac Ambruso, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Maryland Building Industry Association to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB-5 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Isaac Ambruso

Signature: Isaac Ambruso

Digitally signed by Isaac Ambruso
Date: 2023.01.12 10:38:41 -05'00'

Date: 1/12/2023

Organization: Maryland Building Industry Association

Organization Address: 11825 West Market Place

11825 West Market Place

Number of Members: 100,000

Name of Chair/President: Lori Graf

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HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Steve Miller, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Association of Realtors to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

CB5-2023
County Council regarding _____ to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Steve Miller

Signature: _____

Date: 1/11/23

Organization: Howard County Association of Realtors

8600 Snowden River Pkwy, Suite 104, Columbia, MD, 21045
Organization Address: _____

2200
Number of Members: _____

Sarah Rayne, CEO, Robbyn Harris, President
Name of Chair/President: _____

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HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Lindsay Estes, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

InterFaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / ~~opposition to /~~ request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Lindsay Estes

Signature: *L. Estes*

Date: 01/16/2023

Organization: InterFaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

Organization Address: 900 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001

900 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Number of Members: 5

Name of Chair/President: Joelle Novey

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HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Ruth White, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

League of Women Voters of Howard County to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023- support to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Ruth White

Signature: _____

Date: Jan. 17, 2023

Organization: League of Women Voters Howard County

Organization Address: 5430 Vantage Point Rd # C, Columbia, MD 21044

5430 Vantage Point Rd # C, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 115

Name of Chair/President: Krista Threefoot

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Daniel Helfich, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Climate Action Co-chairpersons to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 Comprehensive Building Decarbonization to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Daniel Helfrich

Signature: *Daniel D Helfrich*

Date: 17 January 2023

Organization: Howard County Climate Action

Organization Address: 10306 Champions Way, Laurel, MD 20723

10306 Champions Way, Laurel, MD 20723

Number of Members: over 1000 Members and Followers

Name of Chair/President: Ruth Alice White and Liz Feighner, co-chairpersons

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PRO


From: [Heather Deese](#)
To: [Sayers, Margery](#)
Subject: Fwd: Affidavit to testify
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 3:37:15 PM

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

Apologies. I sent it to the email on the form.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Heather Deese** <hdeese@dandelionenergy.com>
Date: Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:26 AM
Subject: Affidavit to testify
To: <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>

 **HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Heather Deese, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Dandelion Energy to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Heather Deese

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: January 17, 2023

Organization: Dandelion Energy

Organization Address: 333 N. Bedford Rd. Suite 220
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Number of Members: 250 employees

Name of Chair/President: Michael Sachse, CEO

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Heather Deese
Director of Policy & Regulatory Affairs

333 North Bedford Road, Suite 220
[Mount Kisco, NY 10549](#)
[The New York Times](#) | [CNN](#) | [VOX](#)

[This Old House](#) | [TechCrunch](#) | [WSJ](#)



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Alex Vazquez, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

CASA to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CBOS-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Alex Vazquez

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1/17/2023

Organization: CASA

Organization Address: 8151 15th Ave, Langley Park,
MD 20783

Number of Members: 122,000

Name of Chair/President: Gustavo Torres.

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**


I, Meagan Braganca, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Progressive Democrats of Howard County to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Meagan Braganca

Signature: 

Date: January 17, 2023

Organization: PDHC

Organization Address: Ellicott City MD 21042

Ellicott City MD 21042

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Hiruy Hadgu

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HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION


I, Ruth Auerbach, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Indivisible Howard County, registered with the Indivisible Project, a to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Ruth Auerbach

Signature: 

Date: 16 January 2023

Organization: Indivisible Howard County

Organization Address: PO Box 603, Savage, Maryland 20763-0603

PO Box 603, Savage, Maryland 20763-0603

Number of Members: 750+

Name of Chair/President: Tim Lattimer

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Jessica I. Nichols, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Columbia Democratic Club to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB5-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jessica I. Nichols

Signature: *Jessica Nichols*

Date: 1/17/2023

Organization: Columbia Democratic Club

Organization Address: c/o Bob Ford 5912 Trotter Road Clarksville, MD 21029

c/o Bob Ford 5912 Trotter Road Clarksville, MD 21029

Number of Members: 223

Name of Chair/President: Jessica Nichols, President

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Good Evening Chair Rigby, Vice-Chair Jung, Councilmembers Jones, Walsh and Yungmann. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

My name is Jessica Nichols of Elkridge, Maryland. I currently serve as President of the Columbia Democratic Club. It is in this capacity that I am coming before you to testify tonight. After an overwhelming vote of support, I have been empowered to come before you to represent the will of our over 200 club members. That will is to express support for the Clean New Buildings Climate Act.

To quote the democratic national party platform, "Democrats believe that climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our national security, and our children's health and futures.... From investing in clean energy to protecting our ecosystems, Democrats are working to address our biggest environmental challenges, paving the way to a more sustainable America."

As a political party, the national democratic party has never been more clear. As a club, we want to emphasize that we believe in democratic values and science. We believe that we need decisive action to protect the health of our ecosystem as well as our children.

In reading about the high levels of pollution that gas stoves emit, I thought about my own childhood. I was 7 years old when I cooked my first meal on the old gas stove in our tiny home. Standing on the chair, I remember the strange smell as I turned on the burner. I didn't realize what an impact the simple act of cooking could have had on my future.

You see, I am asthmatic. I have had asthma since I was a small child. I was a child without a family history of asthma. We simply did not understand why I had asthma. However, I have almost always had a gas stove in my home. As a latch key kid, I had to cook more often at a younger age than other children. Little did I know that I was breathing in levels of pollution that put my developing lungs in the type of danger that would cause many people to have an increased risk during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The danger of gas burning stoves and heating in homes is not restricted to children. The act of burning gas and releasing the resulting pollution into the air endangers our very delicate environment. The damage to our climate can be seen and felt all over Howard County. From the extreme temperatures that put us at risk as we attempt to live every day to the 100 year floods of 2016 and 2018, we are seeing the legacy of generations of environmental disregard. We can no longer afford to abuse our climate.

Now, many people may think that this problem is too big for us to conquer. I firmly reject that. There is nothing too big for us to conquer together. Someone once believed that Jim Rouse's dream for Columbia was too big to be accomplished. People didn't believe that there could be a place where people could come together without regard to race, income, or religion. They said it was impossible. Yet, here we are! A living testimony that impossible things can be

accomplished through intentional and sometimes difficult work. Passing the Clean New Buildings Climate Act is important to doing the necessary work of protecting our climate.

We must take decisive action to benefit our planet now. We can no longer sit on the sidelines. From looming federal and state decarbonization mandates to ensuring our planet survives for generations, we must act today to ensure our future. Commissioning this report so that we can take wise steps in order to protect our environment is important to ensure that we are able to stop the harm we are causing to our fragile ecosystem. This prudent first step should be passed without delay.

We need to pass the Clean New Buildings Act to give us a path to bringing us to the goal of a 100% clean energy powered Howard County!

The time is now. And we are the people who can get this done. Thank you for listening to me and have a good night.

Sayers, Margery

From: Laurie S. Coltri <lscoltri@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:44 PM
To: Paige Getty; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Testimony IN FAVOR of CB5-2023

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

Dear Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jung, and Council Members Jones, Walsh, and Yungmann:

I am in receipt of the testimony of the minister of my church, the Rev. Paige Getty of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia. I am an Officer of its Board of Trustees; but I am writing not in that capacity, but simply as a long time resident of District 2.

My husband and I moved to Columbia in 1996. We have raised our two daughters here and are retired here.

We love our neighborhood, our community, our religious congregation, and the larger region in which we are situated. And this love compels me and the members of my family to care for our world, to repair harm that we have caused, and to protect our community members who are most at risk from harm due to the effects of human-induced harm to our climate and ecosystem. It breaks our hearts that our daughters live under the looming existential threat that climate devastation presents. My husband and I grew up in Los Angeles, and there we saw irrefutable evidence that strong environmental legislation can indeed succeed in alleviating and even reversing ecological damage.

As people of faith, we strongly concur with Rev. Getty's points below and we couldn't have said it better. **Please vote in favor of CBS-2023.** We are already doing what we can as individuals, but immediate collective governmental effort is essential.

Thank you for accepting my written testimony.

Very Truly Yours,
Laurie S. Coltri, JD, PhD
Thunder Hill, Columbia, MD.

On 1/17/2023 8:09 PM, Paige Getty wrote:

Thank you for accepting this testimony in writing.

Testimony in Favor of CB5-2023

Good evening, Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jung, and Council Members Jones, Walsh, and Yungmann.

I am Reverend Paige Getty. I serve as Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia and as a member of the clergy core team of PATH—People Acting Together in Howard.

I am a faith leader, and I speak to you tonight as a Columbia resident of Council District 4. I am a property owner and a parent and a person who strives to live faithfully—in my vocation, in my parenting, in my friendships, and as a resident of this planet.

And my faith teaches that we are inherently *interconnected* and *interdependent* with the earth and with one another. Therefore, we must live in harmony with all life, and we must do all in our power to strengthen and protect those among us who are most vulnerable.

And so, we listen to the experts—the scientists—who are vigilantly exploring and studying and learning how we can endure in sustainable and life-affirming ways on this planet. And then we follow their advice, and we make sacrifices, and we do what is right by one another and by our earthly home.

From those experts we know that it is imperative that we not delay in using whatever tools are at our disposal to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

We *can* choose to maintain the status quo, to say it's too hard, to focus on why change is difficult. But we also know that that choice is neither right nor just.

And we know that the devastating impacts of *not* reducing our dependence on fossil fuels disproportionately affects those among us with the fewest resources, those who are already at risk, those who consistently bear the brunt of our carelessness and our greed and our insistence on maintaining the status quo.

We *must* do what is in our power to make change, to keep our community livable, and not to cause further harm. And it is in *your* power to pass this bill as a single step forward in the effort to Electrify Howard County. Please vote in favor of Council Bill 5.

Paige Getty
10318 Twinedew Place
Columbia, MD 21044

The Rev. Paige Getty, Minister

she / her / hers

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

7246 Cradlerock Way

Columbia, Maryland 21045

(410) 381-0097, ext. 101

minister@uucolumbia.net

Sayers, Margery

From: LAURA JONES <LAURA.JONES@Longandfoster.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB5 -2023 thoughts

Importance: High

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

Good evening:

I am writing to the county council group to express my concerns and thoughts regarding the efforts to eliminate the option of fossil fuels in our county, Howard County. I will be brief.

1. As a real estate agent and as a previous farmette owner in West Friendship and Highland before it, my homes both had oil heat. I did look into converting but the costs were prohibitive. It's not just a simple swap. You must upgrade your electric box, in most cases because oil/gas only need small feeder outlets, heat pumps require significantly higher amps. This is possible if you have an underground transformer with a 400 amp output; however, if you have overhead lines with sometimes a little as 100 amps it could mean new lines dropped and the fuse box upgrade in addition to the new unit. In some cases, this could mean over \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars). This makes it a losing proposition for most homeowners currently using fossil fuels.
2. I also disagree with restricting current fossil fuel homes from adding appliances (eg..gas fireplace) which this bill seems to be trying to bring about. In many cases my buyers specifically ask for gas heated homes. They feel heat pumps are colder homes. Which they are just inherently by the way they work. They are truly only efficient when the weather is about 20 degrees +/- of the desired indoor temperature. Particularly with heat. When the variance is too great heat pumps become big electric users due to the need for emergency heating system to run to keep the indoor temperature high enough. I know. I have a heat pump in my Ellicott City home. During the truly cold snap earlier this Winter my pump ran non-stop just to get to 67 degrees.
3. Moreover, most fossil fuel furnaces run at 98% +/- efficiency. This is based on 22 years of home inspections with buyers, which include furnace inspections in most

cases. Generally, I see that number on my reports. I also see from the information provided for this bill that it looks like this change would probably bring a negligible decrease in green house gases especially since commercial and other large users are excluded.

I do understand the premise here but the method is all wrong. It's wrong to force current owners to give up a system that, maybe, propelled them to buy a certain home in the first place. It's wrong to limit reasonable choices for residential owners but not commercial. It's wrong to follow in the footsteps of other localities because it's fashionable. It is wrong to force financial hardship on *some* homeowners. We can do better. The right path does **NOT** go through this proposed bill CB5-2023.

V/R:

Laura-Lee Jones, SRS, C2EX, LRES, CREN



Residential - Farms & Land - Commercial

<https://www.longandfoster.com/LauraJonesTeam1>

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Letter of support for CB5-2023

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023

Dear Howard County Council Members,

On Jan. 3, Councilmember Christiana 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, **the 11 undersigned organizations and 96 constituents**, are writing to ask you to support CB5-2023. Last year was the hottest year on record in most of Europe, and among the hottest globally. The United States had at least 15 billion-dollar weather-related disasters last year, twice the 40-year average, including one of the largest and most destructive hurricanes ever. The American West is suffering its worst drought in at least 1200 years. Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continue to rise.

Howard County can be part of the solution to our climate crisis. 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. The county's draft Climate Action Plan says that, without action, emissions are projected to rise because of population growth. Construction of new homes and buildings follows population growth and, without action, building emissions will continue to increase.

The CB5-2023 bill requiring the report is essential if we are to stop burning fossil fuels in new buildings. Moreover, the warming effect is long-lasting: A new gas boiler, furnace, or hot water heater installed in the next few years will continue to emit greenhouse gases for decades. As environmentalist Bill McKibben says: "When you are in a hole, stop digging!"

In addition to reducing greenhouse gases, electrification of new buildings will benefit Howard County residents' pocketbooks and health.

Economic research indicates that most all-electric buildings cost less to build, and more importantly, that homeowners' and renters' ongoing energy costs for energy-efficient electric heat pumps and heat pump water heaters are substantially less. While the price of renewable energy is falling fast, a Maryland state agency recently completed a study showing that the delivered price of fossil fuels will increase up to 800% in coming years. Howard County residents and businesses do not want to be locked into these skyrocketing energy costs.

Accumulating evidence also shows that indoor gas combustion is a significant public health risk. Both the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association have passed resolutions warning against gas stoves and cooktops, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission is considering banning sales of new gas cooking appliances. A peer-reviewed study published in December 2022 in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that "12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use." Howard County residents deserve better.

We urge your support for CB5-2023.

Sincerely,

Organizations

Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, Legislative Team & Creation Care Team
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Scaggsville
HoCo Climate Action
Howard County Sierra Club
Indivisible Howard County
InterFaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
Jewish Community Relations Council, JFHC
Safe Skies Maryland
Sunrise Movement Howard County
UU Congregation of Columbia Climate Crisis Team

Constituents - 96

District 1 - Walsh	District 2 - Jones	District 3 - Rigby	District 4 - Jung	District 5 - Yungmann
John Barnes	Rochelle Ginsburg	Kim Pezza	Carl Latkin	Doug Siglin
Patricia Soffen	John Magoon	Liz Feighner	Crystal Konny	Ken Schaffer
Suzannah Mullen	Wendy L Hall	Ruth Auerbach	Brian Costello	Neilsen Webster
Cheryl Arney	RoseMarie Meservey	Phil Webster	Ann Coren	Peter Alexander
Judith Schardt	Ronald Meservey	Carolyn Parsa	Virginia Smith	Cynthia A Williams
Susan Franckel	Tina Armstrong	Kurt R. Schwarz	Karen Douglas	Dr. Sara Via
Benjamin Poole	Andrea LeWinter	Mary Rodgers	Nancy Rivers	Irma Bensinger
Sydney Wallace	Sheila Robinson	Liz Kato	Mark Southerland PhD	Alexander Ross
	Harriett Katzen	Charles Goedeke	James Sarlanis	Caitlin
	Rabbi Gordon Fuller	Richard Deutschmann	Susannah Feldman	Ann Strozyk
	Lindsay Estes	Karen O'Steen	Barbara Sue Senate	Cassie Felch
	Mandy Elder	Vanessa Deutschmann	Iris Zhan	Kevin Grant
	Alec Weinberg	Teresa Weathington	Setareh Shemali	Erin McGinn
	Kathy Woods	Neil Hunt	Sara Shemali	Christine Lemyze
	Lauren Kazlow	Gail P. Holm	Yasmin Shemali	Patricia Steinhilber
	Ruth White	Robert Muller	Judith C Davies	Kristin Siglin
	Nathan Baum	Marjorie Reyes	Jill Christianson	Stephanie Dignan
	Alisa Niefeld-Batiz	Wendy Alberg	Ellen Bryson	
	Mary Ann Barry	Alice Pham	Jeremy Domm	
	Tim Lattimer	Mary C Chiu	Stephen Pantano	
	Charlie Bailey	Marie Fowler	Barbara S. Matheson	
		Robert L Bingham	Robin Hessey	
			Betsy Singer	
			Dr. John A. Wheatland	
			Loreen V Heinz	
			Theodore Swanson	
			Carla Tevelow	
			Jeremy Scharfenberg	

Testimony

Howard County Council

1/17/2023

Howard County Council Bill 5-2023

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) thanks the Howard County Council for the opportunity to comment on Bill 5-2023 and appreciates the Council for taking a thoughtful and measured approach to building electrification. BGE respectfully submits this statement regarding *Council Bill 5-2023*. BGE supports and would like to partner with the county and the state in their efforts to meet decarbonization goals. As an integrated energy delivery company, BGE has a critical role in enabling decarbonization in Maryland and appreciates Howard County's goals to address climate change and their action in initiating a report before implementing legislation that would significantly change energy usage.

Pursuant to the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC), the agency tasked with regulating the state's electric utilities and ensuring the reliability of the electric grid for Maryland customers has been mandated by to study the electric grid to accommodate the substantial changes that will come with electrification. The MD PSC system planning study will leverage input from Maryland's electric companies on their ability to operate and maintain the electric system through its transition to decarbonization. The additional electrical load added to the grid through electrification will have an impact on system capacity and operations. BGE recommends Howard County include electric company data and input as a part of the required report.

In addition to the general system planning study, the Climate Solutions Now Act directed the Maryland Department of Labor's Building Codes Administration to provide critical information that would significantly improve the ability of policymakers to select the best path forward to decarbonize buildings. The Department is charged with developing "recommendations for an all-electric building code for the State" and "recommendations for the fastest and most cost-efficient methods to decarbonize buildings." The Department submitted a required interim report by January 1, 2023, and a final report is due by December 1, 2023. This information could prove useful in shaping Howard County's path toward electrification. BGE respectfully recommends that the Howard County Council consider including input from the Department's study as part of their legislation.

E3 Consulting recently completed separate studies for the State of Maryland and for BGE that show there are multiple pathways to net-zero by 2045, but any future that meets net zero will require significant transformations and investments across the economy and a role for electrification. The E3 study included three pathways to decarbonization: 1) Limited Gas; 2) Hybrid; and 3) Diverse all of which can be seen in Figure 1 below All three pathways each achieve Maryland's net-zero GHG emission targets and all require significant electrification – including building and transportation electrification.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.2 million electric customers and more than 655,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading competitive energy provider.

Scenario	1. Limited Gas	Integrated Energy System Scenarios	
		2. Hybrid	3. Diverse
Description	High-electrification and shift away from delivered gas	Leverage an increasingly clean system, electrification, and gas network	
Buildings	Electrification	Electrification with gas/electric hybrid heating	Adds gas heat pumps and network geothermal
Industry	Electrification	Electrification and alternative fuels	
Transportation	Light duty vehicle electrification with alternative fuels for medium and heavy-duty vehicles		
Electricity	Zero-carbon electricity by 2045		
Other Sectors	66% reduction by 2045		
Net Incremental Cost 2020-2045	\$52 Billion	\$38 Billion	\$40 Billion
Overall Risk Level	Highest	Moderate	Moderate to High

Figure 1. Incremental costs include renewable energy capacity and energy, clean gaseous fuels, customer equipment conversions, transmission & distribution infrastructure, and net of savings from avoided gasoline and fossil fuel usage.

The most important finding by E3 is that the Hybrid and Diverse pathways, both of which leverage the combined capabilities of electric and gas delivery systems, achieve Maryland’s goals at lower cost and less risk for customers and the State’s economy. These Integrated Energy System (IES) pathways also deliver greater resiliency, fuel diversity, more realistic constructability, and less disruption to customers and the State’s economy.

The Limited Gas pathway, which relies almost exclusively on electrification, will result in a significantly higher cost, more economic and energy system disruption, and a less diverse and resilient system compared to IES scenarios. Preliminary analysis conducted in parallel with the E3 work indicates that BGE’s required electric grid capacity would triple or more (from 6,500 MW today to as high as 22,500 MW by 2045), which would require approximately 250 new or expanded substations and 1,700 new electrical feeders across our entire system. This infrastructure would require an enormous financial investment, threatening affordability for customers, and poses an incredible siting and permitting challenge in central Maryland’s heavily developed regions.

BGE is supportive of fully-informed efforts to decarbonize in the building sector as one of the many means to address climate change. However, buildings represent only 13% of sector-wide greenhouse gas emissions, and there are multiple pathways that can be embarked upon to support decarbonization efforts. Any pathway that is selected should be affordable, equitable, manageable, and compatible with electric system reliability, security, and resiliency. Such a meaningful shift in energy policy should be undertaken with all these factors in mind. It should be noted that while a building electrification policy may be implemented at the local level in Howard County, its effects are not localized in nature. The needs of the electrical grid are not planned for Howard County alone, and such a transition will require time for electric system planning and implementation. Electrification will drive a requirement for significant incremental investments in electric infrastructure to serve the resulting load reliably and with resiliency in mind.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland’s largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.2 million electric customers and more than 655,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company’s approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation’s leading competitive energy provider.



Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on such impactful legislation and we look forward to being a partner in addressing the effects of climate change with the county. We are confident in our ability to help achieve Maryland's goals using an optimal pathway that fosters greater affordability, equity, reliability, and resilience.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.2 million electric customers and more than 655,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading competitive energy provider.



January 17, 2023

The Honorable Christiana Rigby, Chair
Howard County Council
Via Email: CRigby@howardcountymd.gov

Oppose: CB 5-23 – All-Electric New Construction and Major Renovations

Dear Chair, Rigby and Council Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters represent more than 700 companies involved in all aspects of commercial, industrial, and mixed-use real estate including many of the largest commercial real estate companies in Howard County. I am writing to offer several points that underly NAIOP's opposition to CB 5-23 which would require Howard County Department of Licenses and Permits to report and make recommendations on the adoption of an all-electric building code for new construction and major renovations.

NAIOP's membership is comprised of a mix of local firms and publicly traded real estate investment trusts that are invested in the future of Maryland but also have experience in national and international markets. Many of NAIOP's leading companies have adopted portfolio-wide net-zero commitments. The broad commitment of our members to high performance buildings is one of the drivers behind Maryland's decades long position among state leaders in the rate that LEED certified buildings are brought to market.

NAIOP supports adoption of least-cost decarbonization strategies that achieve carbon related performance targets in ways that are technically feasible, commercially available, and cost effective for builders and occupants. This includes a comprehensive, systems approach to policy making that fully considers both the building level and utility scale considerations. Many of the elements necessary to minimize economic disruptions and ensure a managed, orderly energy transition for building owners and occupants require actions by utility regulators, the General Assembly, and other entities that are outside the control of local government.

Based on our experience and the most recent literature, we believe the full suite of current and emerging technologies and techniques will be needed to decarbonize Maryland's economy. While high rates of building electrification will be necessary, successful policy will need to allow for the future combustion of low and zero emissions fuels, as well as the use of carbon offsets and credits that can meet the state's net-zero emissions targets faster and at lower cost.

On behalf of NAIOP's member companies I write to offer the following observations and recommendations to the Council:

- 1. The scope of CB 5-23 does not direct that a comprehensive report on decarbonization techniques be presented to the council.** The bill predetermines a narrow, all-electric approach to construction that, by definition, excludes the use of dual fuel or hybrid technologies that deploy electric systems for primary space heating and secondary combustion systems for the coldest hours of the year when electric heat pumps are less effective and electricity from renewable generating sources is harder to obtain.
 - **Recommendation:** The council should broaden the scope of the report to consider information on the full suite of decarbonization techniques and technologies.
- 2. Utility Scale Energy Transition Requires System-Wide Coordination Rather than Patchwork of Local Laws** – Electrifying the building and transportation sectors will have financial and service-related implications for the utilities that serve Howard County and their customers throughout the region. In an informational letter to legislators during the 2022 General Assembly Session, [The Maryland Public Service Commission warned of a gas price death spiral](#) caused by the shift of operating costs onto customers who remain on the gas system as commercial and multi-family buildings electrify and leave. Concurrent electrification of cars, heat and hot water in buildings will require significant changes to the electric service at buildings - both new and existing. BGE and Maryland's other publicly owned electric utilities have advised caution about how quickly their

distribution infrastructure should be expected to accommodate abrupt increases in demand. These and related issues are being studied by the Public Service Commission at the request of the General Assembly. The results of Public Service Commission studies will provide valuable information about the readiness of utility infrastructure, impacts on rate payers and insights about how to effectively sequence the transfer of buildings and automobiles from fossil fuels to zero carbon energy sources.

➤ **Recommendation:** Howard County should allow the Public Service Commission to complete its evaluation of grid readiness and rate payer impacts before establishing new code requirements and deadlines for new construction and major renovations. Building electrification must consider the building level and utility scale cost and feasibility.

3. **NAIOP Opposes Decoupling from the National Building Codes** - Decoupling from national building codes and writing a local all-electric construction code raises concerns that design teams will be forced to use unproven technologies or meet costly, untested code requirements. The bill's narrow and prescriptive requirement for only an all-electric construction code crowds out the use of renewable fuels and other decarbonization or net-zero pathways that could be important least-cost alternatives, especially for major renovations. The two governing bodies that write the mechanical, building and energy codes – *The International Code Council [ICC]* and *American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers [ASHRAE]* – have both accelerated the development of codes, standards, evaluation tools and technical guidance focused on carbon reduction that will provide a roadmap for net-zero carbon construction. These organizations have the testing capacity and expertise to ensure that code requirements achieve carbon related performance targets in ways that are technically feasible, commercially available, and cost effective for builders and occupants.

➤ **Recommendation:** Howard County should coordinate adoption of its building codes with International Code Council's development of codes, standards, and guidance on carbon focused construction practices. Doing so would allow the county to follow a technically sound and managed transition to low-carbon and net-zero carbon construction.

4. **Electric Heat Pump Systems Do Not Necessarily Scale Up Well for Large Buildings** – While it is less challenging to electrify new construction than existing buildings, even in new construction current electric heat pump and heat pump hot water technologies are often better suited to smaller residential and commercial buildings. For larger buildings, system designs become complicated by limitations on refrigerant line length, roof and basement space available for equipment. For some applications such as water heating, there are limited all-electric equipment options in the market that can meet the energy efficiency, health and comfort needs of large multi-family buildings. While there has been some advancement in development of residential cold climate heat pumps, improvement is needed for commercial equipment. Declines in both operating and capital costs of commercial equipment are necessary to close the feasibility gap between small and large buildings.

➤ **Recommendation:** Howard County should focus first on small buildings and use types that have low space and water heating needs.

5. **Notes About Other Bill Provisions** –

➤ **Major Renovations and Additions** – Existing buildings are subject to the state-wide building performance standards. The definition of major renovation and additions in CB 5-23 could trigger conversion of space and water heating systems in existing buildings on a schedule that is faster than the state-wide building performance standard and potentially before existing systems reach the end of their service life. It would also prevent use of alternative compliance fee provisions in the state law. Significant discrepancies between Howard County, surrounding counties and states could put Howard County at a competitive disadvantage when trying to preserve and expand the commercial tax base.

➤ **Direct Emissions** - The statement in the declarations that buildings “*account for 40% of emissions*” overstates building sector emissions by attributing the direct emissions of utility run power generating facilities to buildings. This is misleading and inconsistent with how the state emissions inventory accounts for greenhouse gas emissions and assigns responsibility for mitigation. Building owners and occupants do not have control over the emissions rates of utility generated electricity which can vary significantly based on the time of year and time of day. The Green House Gas Reduction Act and the more recent Climate Solutions Now Act make the building sector responsible for mitigation of net direct emissions from the on-site combustion of fossil fuels. The utility sector is responsible for the emissions of power generating facilities.

NAIOP's member companies look forward to working with the council and other stakeholders to manage the complex issues related to the energy transition and climate mitigation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -*The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: Howard County Council Members
The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive

Sayers, Margery

From: Irma Bensinger <ibensinger@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:48 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: (CB5-2023) 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.]

Dear Howard County Council members,

Please support the Clean New Buildings Climate Act (CB5-2023). This important piece of legislation, introduced by Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3, will help Howard County move closer to our states goals of reducing GHG emissions.

Respectfully,

Irma Bensinger
Glenelg, Maryland

Testimony in favor of CB5-2023
January 17, 2023
Tim Lattimer, Columbia MD (Council District 2)

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and thanks to Council Member Rigby for putting this important initiative forward. I am testifying strictly in my personal capacity as a resident of District 2 in Columbia and not as a representative of my employer or any organizations with which I'm affiliated. **I urge you to approve CB5 because doing so can advance our community's public health, prosperity, equity, and sustainability.**

The science is clear and overwhelming: **climate change is real, it's happening now, and it poses a significant threat to Howard County's public safety, prosperity, and sustainability.** As the federal government's **Draft National Climate Assessment (NCA5)** puts it, *"The things Americans value most are at risk. More intense extreme events and long-term climate changes make it harder to maintain safe homes and healthy families, reliable public services, a sustainable economy, thriving ecosystems, and strong communities."*

The draft NCA stresses that, *"While the effects of human-caused climate change on the United States are already far-reaching and worsening, every additional amount of warming that we avoid or delay will reduce harmful impacts."*

Scientists warn that **we must prevent the Earth from warming by more than 1.5C to avoid the worst, catastrophic impacts of climate change.** We've already warmed it by more than 1.1C. Unless we **cut carbon pollution in half by 2030**, we'll likely blow past the 1.5C limit and impose much greater costs on our children and grandchildren. **This is the decisive decade for climate action.** It's time we kick our fossil fuel addiction, not kick the can down the road.

While the climate crisis is a global problem, it's fundamentally a local issue. Its impacts are local, but so, too, are its solutions. **Electrification is vital to getting off fossil fuels.** It is a viable solution that we can advance NOW at local levels. We don't have to wait for state and federal governments to make it happen.

Nearly 100 cities and counties across the United States have already adopted policies that require or encourage the move off fossil fuels to all-electric homes and buildings. As of December 2022, some 31 million people in nine states and Washington DC live in communities where local policies favor fossil fuel-free, healthy buildings. This makes sense for several reasons.

Climate: Buildings generate nearly 30% of America's greenhouse gas emissions. Using gas in buildings releases **methane – a gas that has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide** over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere. **Every new gas pipe or appliance that is installed perpetuates our dependence on the use of fuels in ways that are killing the planet as a place fit for human life.**

Economic: The Rocky Mountain Institute estimates that the capital cost of **all-electric residential buildings is about \$2,000 to \$10,000 cheaper than those built to use gas** for heating & cooking. Moreover, the price of electricity from wind and solar has dropped dramatically in the past decade, making it much cheaper than fossil fuels. Meanwhile, **gas prices have quadrupled** just in the past couple of years as utilities easily pass rising fuel costs to consumers. Gas infrastructure is heavily subsidized by utility ratepayers and it's typically financed over 60-80 years. So, adding **new gas infrastructure perpetuates harmful emissions AND it burdens ratepayers with increasingly obsolete facilities that may become stranded assets.** It makes no economic or environmental sense to expand or continue to subsidize this volatile industry. It's imperative that we shrink it.

Public Health: Americans spend 90% of their time indoors, which the EPA estimates to be two-to-five times more polluted than outdoor air. **Children living in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to experience asthma.** Pollution from buildings accounts for 25% of all premature deaths from air pollution nationwide. **Methane gas is toxic and it heightens the risk of explosions and fire. It should not be in our homes and workplaces.**

Equity: Gas prices have already skyrocketed and the **Maryland Office of the People's Counsel estimates that residential gas costs will increase by approximately 100% to 200% by 2035.** These price increases **will disproportionately impact renters and low-income customers.** Every year **gas price fluctuations already force nearly 1 in 3 American families to choose between heating their homes and paying for food and medicine.** Gas leaks are higher in low-income communities and those with a majority of people of color. Electrification will better protect these communities.

Some may say that CB5 is not enough, because it merely calls for a study and postpones concrete action for at least another year. Of course, I'd love to see Howard County adopt immediate steps to change its building codes to require electrification now. But it's also important that you are able to make a fully informed decision so that we get it right. **Given that the County is drafting a new Climate Action & Resiliency Plan (CAP) that could help lay important groundwork for electrification, perhaps the study called for in CB5 could be expedited by possibly making it an add-on to CAP, thus ensuring that they're mutually reinforcing.**

You'll likely also get **fearmongering from the fossil fuel industry.** These are the folks who spent millions and used PR firms and "astroturf" organizations to fight similar efforts in places like California and New York. So, beware when you see messages or social media posts purporting to come from ordinary citizens in groups with innocuous-sounding names like "Marylanders for Better Energy Solutions." Make no mistake: **they're not here for "better energy solutions"** and this isn't about romanticized notions of the supposed advantages of cooking with gas stoves. That's a myth the gas companies have promoted for decades. **The opposition is really about squeezing us for more profits and keeping us addicted to an increasingly costly, outmoded, and dangerous fuel source that causes enormous harm to people and the planet.**

I am grateful for County Executive Ball's leadership and the important steps that Howard County has taken over the past four years to advance climate mitigation and to strengthen resiliency. Even so, **the climate crisis is only getting worse,** so we can't rest on our laurels. **"Business-as-usual" is not the solution. It's the problem.** As the 6th wealthiest county in the United States, we have to help show the way. **NOW is the time for Howard County to lean in on climate action by moving boldly and decisively toward electrification. CB5 is a good step in that direction.**

Moreover, ratings agencies like Moody's and Standard & Poor's now factor into their bond ratings whether and how seriously cities and counties are addressing the threats posed by climate change. We can't rely solely on Executive Orders that a successor could wipe away easily with the stroke of a pen. I hope that the County Executive's team will **produce a robust and ambitious climate action and resiliency plan that the County Council can use as a basis to codify lasting and transformative measures to meet the climate crisis.**

I hope you will all come together to approve CB5.

Thank you for your service to our community and your consideration.

Tim Lattimer
Each Leaf Court
Columbia, MD 21045



**Testimony in support of CB5-2023
Howard County Council Hearing
Betsy Singer, Co-Chair, Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Federation of Howard County
January 17, 2023**

The Jewish Community Relations Council, the outreach and advocacy committee of the Jewish Federation of Howard County is strongly in favor of CB5-2023 because our Jewish values tell us we have the responsibility of *tikkun olam*, or “repair of the world.” Taking steps, both small and large, to lessen the amount of carbon emissions being pumped into the atmosphere, is surely an effort to repair the world.

The Howard County Council is aware of the real threat and imminent dangers of flooding Earth’s atmosphere with carbon emissions. Climate change is already causing world-wide catastrophes. Fires and floods and increased viciousness of tornadoes, and hurricanes means that no part of our country or the state of Maryland will escape these threats...unless we continue our commitment to meet the goals set by the state of Maryland’s Climate Solutions Act of 2022 and Howard County Executive Calvin Ball’s Executive Order. Each required substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for public and private sectors to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045.

The purpose of this bill is to direct the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP) to report to the County Council by 12/29/23 about the changes needed to the County building code to require that heat and other appliances in new buildings, major renovations and additions be generated by all-electric systems.

Passage of this bill brings us one step closer to understanding how we can address one source of carbon emissions under County control. About 11 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in the County are produced by the direct combustion of fossil fuels in homes and other buildings, mainly for heat, producing hot water and for cooking.

On a personal level, I have lived in an all-electric home in Columbia in Howard County for the past 25 years. The air quality is cleaner, safer, and the electricity is quieter, less expensive, more comfortable, and more reliable than any other home I’ve lived in, all of which were powered by oil or gas.

Betsy Singer, Columbia, MD 21044
443-812-2525 cell

Bruce A. Harvey
Testimony 01/17/2023
Howard County Council
Bill CB5-2023

My name is Bruce Harvey and I live on Elmwood Road in Fulton, MD. I am testifying against Council Bill CB5.

I am recommending that we defeat this legislation at this time. State Senate Bill 528, the Climate Solutions Now Act, was passed in 2022. This bill sets forth a path towards net zero energy for the State. A Public Service Commission report is due at the end of this year examining the multiple aspects of moving toward net zero energy by 2045. While the County is blessed with a very strong licensing and permit department led by Bob Francis, the County should not act on its own to try and adopt its own provisions. Separate County codes will create potential hardship for the utility providers as they attempt to meet different provisions across their service area. Important to note as well is the Building Code is reviewed and drafted on a national basis, then adopted by local jurisdictions. It would be very unusual for the Code to be substantially amended by a local jurisdiction.

The BGE White Paper titled BGE Integrated Decarbonization Strategy, published in October 2022, is an important document for each of us to review. The highlights of that report are as follows:

- “Pathways that rely on an Integrated Energy System carry a lower overall cost and level of challenge relative to those that rely primarily on electrification or renewable gases.”
- The Energy System Cost of a Limited Gas System (almost full electrification) is \$58 billion
- The Energy System Cost of a Hybrid system (enhanced gas systems, geothermal, and hydrogen systems in addition to electric) is \$38 billion, \$20 billion less.
- “All scenarios that achieve net-zero require significant investments in electric generation and delivery infrastructure, but those costs can be mitigated by an integrated approach.”
- “Consumers are central to the transformations required to achieve net-zero and achieving the scale of adoption envisioned here will required developing solutions that are affordable and work for all customers, equitably. ... **Lower income customers are expected to face higher energy burdens, particularly in the Limited Gas scenario.**”

Based upon the above information and the need for statewide cooperation in our goals for net-zero, I recommend that you vote no on CB5.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.