

CB3-2023

Testimony in support of CB3-2023 with amendments
January 22, 2023

My name is Liz Feighner of Laurel, MD and I'm a 30-year resident from District 3. I am writing to comment on CB3-2023 which updates Howard County's Clean Energy Loan Program to include new qualifying projects and costs and to provide additional flexibility for property owners and lenders participating in the program.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) is a tool for financing commercial property improvements that save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase resilience to climate change impacts, protect human health, and create jobs. In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation to modify the existing C-PACE statute, so this bill updates the Howard program to be in-line with the updated program.

I am making comments specifically about **Section 20.1203. Qualifying [[improvements]] PROJECTS and costs. In section (a) item number 5**, the legislation states that qualifying improvements include:

“(5) Any construction, renovation, or retrofitting of commercial property to reduce energy consumption, including, high efficiency lighting and building systems, heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades, high efficiency boilers and furnaces, high efficiency hot water heating systems, combustion and burner upgrades, fuel switching, heat recovery and steam traps...”

I am requesting that any appliance that burns fossil fuels be excluded from qualifying for these loans. We must reduce the use of fossil fuels and should not finance new appliances that will burn fossil fuels for decades to come. This financing should only be available for appliances that don't add to the climate crisis by emitting greenhouse gases into our atmosphere.

Thank you,

Liz Feighner
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