

CB5-2023

1.19.23

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 11:05 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: council bill 5-2023

For Related Documents under CB5-2023.

From: susan crovo <scrovo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:24 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: council bill 5-2023

Hello:

I just found out about this proposed bill this morning!

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. Howard County and the state of Maryland are getting complete out of control. What has happened to "our right to choose"?

i am hoping you will strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you.

Susan Crovo
8115 Yellow Pine Dr. 21043
410-461-4540

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: susan crovo <scrovo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:24 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: council bill 5-2023

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

Hello:

I just found out about this proposed bill this morning!

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8115 Yellow Pine Dr. 21043
410-461-4540

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 8:16 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: Fwd: CB5-2023

For Related Documents under CB5-2023.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Abhijit Sarkar <abhijitsarkar25@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 8:15:32 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Royalty, Wendy <wroyalty@howardcountymd.gov>; Baker, Kevin <kebaker@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 Rep. Walsh,

I believe you are my representative on the Howard County Council. I am writing to let you know that as a resident of Howard County I am totally opposed to CB5-2023. I urge you to vote against this piece of destructive legislation. It will be bad for current residents and future residents, especially those looking for reasonably priced housing. It will decrease the value of existing homes and make new houses more expensive and reduce the supply. While the benefit to the climate will be non-existent, the losses to current and future residents' finances will be anything but.

Thank you,
Abhijit Sarkar
4613 Huntley Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Reginald Harrison <rharr9090@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 1:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bill CB5 2023-For the permanent legislative file and online posting

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

Opposing Bill CB5:

Dear Council Members and Fellow Citizens:

Our legislative meeting on 1/17/2023 started with a Pledge of Allegiance. What were we pledging our allegiance to? Big government, or to a country that was once the freest in the world. Why do so many people come to America? Freedoms! Stop letting government infringe upon your freedoms. Stop falling for **phony agendas, which only empower government and not the people.**

Bill CB5 is a COMPLETE overstep by government. The government, local or otherwise, has NO RIGHT to tell citizens what type of utilities they can have. They have NO right to enter our homes and tell us what type of heat source we can live with, or what type of cooking equipment we can use. This is simply **opening the door for an expanded bill that will then impose these Communist like restrictions on Current homes.** Our HOMES! Our PROPERTIES! Our RIGHTS! Our FREEDOMS! Our homes that we maintain and pay for. How dare this county even think that a bill like this, should even be presented? Council members, you have lost your way! This is trickle down influence from the federal and state level of government and is nothing more than a demonstration of **government empowering itself to reduce the rights of private citizens.** A couple of people who support this bill and who presented in person on 1/17/2023 stated clearly that this bill will do nothing to truly impact CO2 emissions. Another individual stated as well, that with only 2% of the county's land available for future development, that these restrictions placed on new construction will have no meaningful impact. Therefore, if this bill is passed, **it will do nothing more than create a gateway for an expanded bill. A bill that will then allow for these restrictions to be imposed on existing properties.** No matter what the council says, this is where this is headed.

If these people that are in favor of this bill want to protect children as they say they do, and want to leave them a better place to live, then they need to start by protecting their freedoms. Every time the government presents a bill like this, it is one-step closer to controlling your entire life. They want to come into our homes! They want to tell us what type of stove to have and what type of heat source. Our local government cannot even manage the school system, so that homebuyers can rely on what schools their children will go to, and instead bus children (redistrict them) from one school to another every two years. Meanwhile they continue to approve building permits and collect millions of dollars from these permits and millions more from the transfer tax revenue and property tax revenue generated from these properties and transactions. However, the county cannot find land, or money to build new schools, and instead relocate your children after you have spent \$300k-\$2M for a home. That is an over-step. Members of our government are habitual line steppers. Now they want to control how you live INSIDE your home. **Do you want to protect children?** Throw away your cell phones and your laptops and stop driving electric cars. The Lithium and Cobalt needed for the batteries that power these things, comes from the Congo. Seventy-five percent of the Lithium and Cobalt on the planet is in the South East and Eastern portions of the Congo. These minerals are mined by slaves and child labor. The minerals are mined by hand! Not machines! And without protective gear. These workers are injured, and worse than that every day. They experience toxic exposure, and demand is increasing!!! These workers are controlled by Warlords. This region is controlled by Warlords, and these mines are owned by Chinese mining companies. Think about that every time you get in your electric car, pick up a cell phone to watch your favorite tik-tok videos, or work on your laptop. **Clean Cobalt is a myth.** It is a PR term and a marketing angle. **It does not exist.** Fractionally in 3% divisions, the remaining 25% of the earths Lithium and Cobalt is located across the rest of the planet.

Climate change is fear mongering. It is programming young and old alike to believe that they are destroying the planet and guilting them into trying to do something about it. It is brainwashing. Young and old alike need to free their minds and think for themselves. The supporters of this agenda are being convinced they are capable of stopping something, which occurs naturally and is not controllable.

2 ½ million years ago the planet earth was frozen. It remained that way for 65 thousand years. The change that took place had nothing to do with gas stoves, or cars. Our planet's climate has been changing for billions of years and it will continue to change. This change will take place without any human influence. **There is NO Man Made Climate Change.** There is no way to determine the effects CO2 emissions have on the climate and therefore no way to determine the effects that reducing CO2 emissions have on the climate.

The climate change agenda is nothing more than a paradigm shift in the next wave of wasteful government funding and private sector wealth, which then flows back to politicians. The private sector hires lawyers/lobbyist to write bills and then presents them to Senators. That is right. The companies and the lawyers write the bills. Because they know how they need to conduct business and what they need in order to thrive. It is all about cash flow. **Not just reasonable cash flow and wealth, but SUPER Wealth!** Cash flows out from Federal/State/Local Tax Dollars (our money), into the corporations and then back again to the Senators, or other "powers that be" who got the bills passed. This money comes to them in the form of campaign contributions and other means such as investment opportunities. How do you think a Congressperson, or Senator who makes \$170,000 per year, has a net worth of \$10M or more. Nancy Pelosi is worth \$100M. She receives an \$800k per year pension from the federal government for the three positions she has held in govt. **Does that sound like public service to you?** This is not about Democrat or Republican. It's about government acting as organized crime. Doing whatever they want! Taxing, seizing and locking up anyone who does not submit to them.

You want to fear monger that gas is dangerous. Here are the stats on Electricity in the home:

- Home electrical fires account for an estimated 51,000 fires each year, nearly than 500 deaths, more than 1,400 injuries, and \$1.3 billion in property damage.
- Electrical distribution systems are the third leading cause of home structure fires.
- Each year in the United States, arcing faults are responsible for starting more than 28,000 home fires, killing and injuring hundreds of people, and causing over \$700 million in property damage.
- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that electrical receptacles are involved in 5,300 fires every year, causing forty deaths and more than 100 consumer injuries.
- Sixty-five percent of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no working smoke detectors.

Does this mean that electricity should be removed from all homes? Of course not. No more than gas should be removed, or oil heat should be removed, or propane should be removed. I urge the students from Reservoir HS and River Hill HS who spoke at the legislative meeting on 1/17/2023 to try really hard to think for themselves and stop letting the "big people" influence their way of thinking with ideologies and tactics resulting in bigger government and higher taxes, with an objective of increased wealth of those directly associated with these policies.

Regards, R. Harrison-Howard County Resident Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Ruth W <ruth.folkfan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 1:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FYI 2023 District of Columbia Clean Energy Summit is live on YouTube Now

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

For those interested the 2023 District of Columbia Clean Energy Summit is live on YouTube Now

See [speakers and agenda here](#).

1:20-2:20pm

Panel 1

The Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Over the past few years, Congress and the Biden/Harris Administration have passed federal legislation and policies that support clean energy efforts. In furthering the conversation to support the District's aggressive clean energy goals, federal experts will discuss how the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act address the urgency around clean air and climate action. This panel will explore the Acts' impact on cutting greenhouse gas emissions. These discussions will also focus on available tax credits and rebate programs, and the regulator's role in supporting clean energy programs. Panelists will also discuss the impact of these Acts on consumers.

The **2023 District of Columbia Clean Energy Summit**. If you have registered to watch the livestream of the event, or if you previously registered to attend in person but will be unable to do so, please use the following YouTube link to watch the summit:

<https://youtu.be/qPhRPjKlaAQ>

Sayers, Margery

From: Alice Marschner <dragonmama@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 1:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Council Bill 5-2023

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

Greetings:

As you consider this new legislation, please take into consideration several things..

Remember Texas - they lost power and many, many people died.

Currently, brown outs and black outs happen all over the county because the electric grid can not supply the electricity demanded at all times.

At the same time we are eliminating methods of generating power, we are also demanding more power. This makes no sense. Until the electric grid is guaranteed to be able to provide enough electric to supply all needs to all locations even in times of stress, it is unreasonable to mandate a shift to all electric, especially in homes.

Terrorist attack is a real possibility - look at North Carolina! Look at the Ukraine! Until the electric grid is hardened and protected to keep it running when under stress or attack, electric should not be the single source of power, heat, transportation and light.

Battery back ups are suggested as the fall back when power goes out.

These batteries are very expensive and full of rare elements. Where will these batteries come from? Who will be able to afford them?

Current batteries are not sufficient to supply power to the total population at this time.

Owners of battery powered vehicles are reporting difficulty with their batteries during cold weather. Once batteries get cold they do not function well. Until batteries are improved they can not be used as a back up to the electric grid.

Batteries are full of rare components that are mined in questionable ways and in far away places. Supply chain issues have been very apparent in the last several years and this would make getting components for batteries very hard, if not impossible. This makes batteries a very unreliable source of power.

My home phone used to be on the copper wire network and it always worked even when the power was out. Now I have to use the new network and I loose the use of my phone every time the power goes out. The battery back up on my phone only lasts minutes, leaving me without an important method of communication.

Diversity is constantly heralded as being very important in society.

Diversity should also be applied to power....When everyone relies on the same, single source of power, warmth and transportation; the loss of that source, for a couple of hours or a couple of weeks, would be devastating. Our strength relies on diversity!

Instead of jumping on this feel good bandwagon, let us instead look to building up and making sure that the power grid is safe, protected and able to hold up against the stress of our total population. Then, and only then, does any mandate for electric; especially in homes, start to be reasonable.

The old wives knew a thing or two — Don't put all your eggs into one basket!

Thank you for your consideration.

Alice Marschner

3919 River Walk

Ellicott City, Md. 21042



Main 410-715-1437
Fax 410-715-1489
Web www.hcar.org

Howard County Association of REALTORS® - Testimony
To: Council Chair Rigby and Honorable Members of the County Council
Date: January 17, 2023
RE: Council Bill 5-2023

Good Evening Chairperson Rigby and Members of the Howard County Council,

On the behalf of the Howard County Association of Realtors (HCAR), an organization of over 2,100 real estate professionals, we express our opposition to Council Bill 5-2023(CB5) - the Clean New Buildings Climate Act.

HCAR supports responsible sustainability and healthy living; however, cannot support the current bill as written. As a pillar of HCAR, we support the protection of the rights of our consumers to make their own choices for their homes and private property. We are in favor of sustainable practices, and conservation of our environment and natural resources, but must lead with the protection of property rights above all else.

The request for this report from the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits (DILP) will provide insightful data; however, the implementation of amendments to the building code requiring 100% building electrification on the construction of future new homes, existing structures, and any future additions - including Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) or additions that may include the need for supplemental heating capacity - infringes on the individual property rights of all homeowners in Howard County which is an unintended consequence of this legislation.

Senate Bill 528(2022) - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 – passed and enacted by the Maryland General Assembly acknowledges that in order for the state to understand the best course of action to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2045, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), along with input from the Public Service Commission (PSC), other state agencies, and other key stakeholders, is to submit a proposed plan to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 30, 2023, and later, a final plan to be implemented by December 31, 2023. As noted in the Clean New Buildings Climate Act as written, the County Council is requesting a report for recommendations to amend the building code to be submitted no later than December 29, 2023. Without this updated data and vetted recommendations from the state, Howard County may develop new policies incompliant with the state's new requirements. Furthermore, it will require the County Department to attempt to submit conclusive recommendations in a general report subject to changes post-submission this year, as requested by CB5.



Main 410-715-1437
Fax 410-715-1489
Web www.hcar.org

HCAR believes that the 100% electrification of a resident's home and the unforeseen need for adjustments within it should be an incentive option, not a mandate. In addition, acknowledging that each region of Howard County may be impacted differently would require considerable thought to the ability of each region's infrastructural capabilities to support an electrification mandate, which is of concern. Lastly, with substantial commercial exemptions included in this request for a report will provide recommendations that enact unfair mandates specifically targeting residential homeowners and ultimately propose increases to their costs while limiting their options and their private property rights.

Equity in housing and the future of affordable housing is a value of HCAR and building electrification in Howard County is an issue of importance in attaining the reduction of GHG Emissions in our community. HCAR supports these changes over the appropriate amount of time so our infrastructures can be developed to support such changes; and would like to request to be included as a partner as these discussions are ongoing.

HCAR respectfully urges you to please vote no to CB5-2023.

Sincerely,

Steve Miller, GRI, C2EX
Chair, Legislative Committee
Howard County Association of REALTORS®

Sayers, Margery

From: RUTH WHITE <rkwhite@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 9:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB5-2023 - Testimony - Support

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

Testimony for CB5-2023 - Support -

My name is Ruth Alice White. I have lived in Jeffers Hill, Long Reach and I have been in Columbia for 50 years. I participate with many local groups : HocoClimateAction, PATH (People Acting Together in Howard), the Sierra Club and until recently my church's green team and the large OMI Green team where we had a great Family Fun Night in Sept 2022 with the theme of Electrify Hoco. Several speakers who spoke there have testified here tonight.

Tonight I am speaking for the HOCo League of Women Voters. I am telling a story out of my recent experience.

To begin: Our League national platform "Supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations."

Tim Lattimer, who I know as a State Dept expert on IPCC climate negotiations, testified on the best science and what we need to do going forward, including building electrification.

Others testifying today spoke about three key points so I will not expand further on these.

- You have heard about the adverse health impacts of gas in the home, especially gas stoves, on the health of children and elders and any with lung issues.**
- And that all electric buildings are generally cheaper to build and that on going utility bills will be less so going all electric is a win both for builders and building owners.**
- And finally that the IPCC declared reducing use of methane gas is the key focus for limiting further climate crisis because it is the strongest GHG and also the one with only a 20 year lifespan. CO2 lasts 100 yrs in the atmosphere. So we get the greatest impact by rapidly moving off methane.**

My personal story is I have gas service to my older townhome. I knew I needed a new air conditioner. Why did I buy a heat pump that would heat as well as cool my home?

In 2020 our air conditioner was limping. In late summer 2021 BGE home came again and said this is 30 yrs old replace it. I delayed replacing it; soon it was fall and we turn the air conditioning off and opened the windows.

A man who lives in HoCo and who wrote studies on home electrification started attending our climate meetings. (and within months was hired by Rewiring America.) I knew from watching [Electrify Now webinars](#) on home appliances that I should buy a heat pump. But this man made it crystal clear for me that no one should ever buy just a new air conditioner. Air conditioners are heat pumps and for a similar amount of money, you can buy a new modern efficient heat pump that provides both air conditioning and heat and save \$\$ ongoing on utility bills. The same large manufacturers that make air conditioners make air conditioners that are also heat pumps, and they work great in Canada, Maine Md and all cold climates.

I knew from the Electrify Now webinars I should have an [home energy audit with a blower door test](#). It can provide info about air flow in your house and [right sizing a new heat pump](#) (data for [Manual J](#) analysis) and other steps to weatherize and make sure your new heat pump will work most efficiently.

If you have an air conditioner or gas furnace over 15 yrs old, you should have this kind of energy audit in preparation for the time they will need to be replaced, a time that is often an emergency.

What does this have to do with new bldg electrification? As a sort of climate geek I knew the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) considered recommending new bldg electrification in fall 2020. They got opposition from utilities and builders and decided to study the issue for another year. In 2021, both E3 and Synapse did studies for the MCCC and finally in fall 2021 the MCCC did approve a report calling for electrification of new buildings. As usual, this report went to the Governor and the Maryland legislature.

In Jan 22 the MD legislators picked up on the MCCC report and included new building electrification in the Climate Solutions Act. However because of opposition from utilities, this provision amended to instead provide another study, one now due December 2023. Attending all these hearings I repeatedly saw the utilities and some builders and others ask for delays and study after study.

Meanwhile, over the past 2 years, more and more localities and states are adopting new building electrification building codes.

Some additional thoughts: when I moved to Columbia in the 70's people said oh you will save on utility bills if you get a house with gas and I was happy to find that the townhouse I am in now had gas. A friend moved into a similar home that was all electric. She was unhappy with her electric heat pump and when it needed to be replaced bought a more efficient one. She got a much more modern one, and is very warm and happy now. In fact the stories in the 70's about electric heat pumps being less efficient were true. AND things changed. Modern heat pumps handle cold weather in Canada, Maine, Massachusetts and more. We didn't have cell phones in the 70's, we had dial phones in our houses. Technology has changed. We should not be judging heat pumps based on assumptions based on information from the 70's.

I am now in a local Rewiring America group to assist homeowners to learn about and connect with heat pump installers. It will be a lot of work to get this word out and help people through the steps I went through to choose heat pumps for heat and air conditioning, instead of just air conditioners, when their appliances die.

Why are we permitting more and more bulidings that will use methane gas and other fossil fuels that will be polluing for years, and should be converted when appliances reach end of life?

In summary, I wonder, are opponents asking for delays to protect their own pocketbooks? But we must be in charge of protecting ours. New bldg electrification will save lives, is a crucial step to reduce the climate crisis, and is the right thing to do.

The Howard County Council can stand up for citizens and for all of our pocketbooks today and vote for mandating electrification of new buildings in HoCo asap.

**Ruth White
8945 Footed Ridge
Columbia Md 21045**

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 8:06 PM
To: rosewards@msn.com
Subject: District 1 - CB 5-2023

First Name: Rose

Last Name: Edwards

Email: rosewards@msn.com

Street Address: 4455 Stonecrest Drive

City: Ellicott City

Subject: CB 5-2023

Message: I'm reading that any current gas powered homes must switch to electric if renovating. As a senior who wants to age-in-place, I will need to enlarge my downstairs powder room with a bench shower. Will this bill affect that change?



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

January 18, 2023

Ms. Christiana Rigby
County Council Chair, Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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

Dear Council Chair Rigby:

The Howard County Chamber (Chamber) is a 700-member organization comprised of businesses – large and small, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions. Our purpose is to advocate for policies that support community and economic development thereby leading to business growth and job creation in Howard County. Like many, the Chamber is aware of the affect's climate change is having on our environment. We know that now and, in the years, ahead, there will be an abundance of policies and regulations implemented to ensure that future generations have clean air and water.

Just last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed sweeping legislation in the Climate Solutions Now bill that calls for aggressive environmental standards to mitigate greenhouse gases and lessen the reliance on fossil fuels. While the bill received much fanfare from environmentalist, the legislation also created an abundance of unanswered questions that has led to a Public Service Commission study be conducted by the state to determine a statewide, coordinated strategy to address emissions which is scheduled to be completed on December 31, 2023.

As such, the Chamber has concerns about CB5-2023 which direct the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits to create recommendations for a fully electrified building code in Howard County. It is understood that building standards and requirements will change. However, our concerns lie in the fact that we are calling for a study and subsequent recommendations prior to the state fully having its standards and policies in place. Not to mention, the legislation focuses solely on electric solutions as opposed to considering a host of decarbonization strategies. We are also concerned this bill threatens to undermine any coordinated attempt to address issue thereby having a negative effect on industry efforts to combat climate change.

It is our belief that we should wait and allow state research and subsequent policies to be fully vetted and implemented prior to us making recommendations which may not be consistent with the states. Further, when we have policy that preempts that of the states, its make things more difficult for business and especially small business. Policy implementation aside, the Chamber is also concerned this legislation will increase cost for those conducting building renovations, residential modifications, and new construction.



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

In closing, the Chamber applauds efforts to create an environment where sustainable practices are the encouraged. Simultaneously, we must be deliberate in our actions to ensure our policies are able to be implemented without causing confusion and undue financial hardships. I look forward talking with you concerning matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leonardo McClarty'.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

Sayers, Margery

From: Richard D <rdeutschmann2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 2:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB5 - Approve with Amendments

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

To our Howard County Council Members:

We are writing in support of CB5-2023, with strengthening amendments. New building electrification is a critical step in reducing a portion of the county's greenhouse gas emissions into the future. This bill does just that, by beginning the process of updating our building codes so that future construction of residential and commercial buildings will utilize modern, efficient, fossil-free HVAC, water heaters, and other energy using equipment. This will have the added benefit of reducing asthma and other serious health issues caused by the burning of fracked gas in our homes and businesses. According to Rocky Mountain Institute, 94 counties and municipalities in the U.S. have now taken concrete steps to electrify, including our neighbors in Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. Adding Howard County to this list will spur action on a state level, creating scale in supply chains and helping to solve the global climate crisis that could have an enormous impact on the State of Maryland. We simply must begin to turn the corner on this, for the future of our kids and grandkids.

However, we support strengthening this bill, by aligning our county more fully with the Climate Solutions Act of 2022, the incoming Moore Administration, as well as the Biden Administration and the Inflation Reduction Act. This will set our county in motion to maximize federal benefits in the coming decade. **The simplest way to accomplish this would be to take County Executive Ball's Executive Order, and codify a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions county-wide by 2030 (actually, Climate Solutions Now has this by 2031) and 100% by 2045.** In this way, we can be a coordinated partner with the State of Maryland, and ensure we are doing our fair share to solve this complex issue. Follow-on legislation would begin to define how Howard County can most effectively meet this new county law, for public entities, residents and commercial/institutional energy users. This would have the added benefit of encouraging more of our neighboring counties to follow suit.

Taking this step will be an enormous boom for new businesses, innovation, 1000s of new jobs, and \$billions in leveraged investments in solutions. This may include new transit solutions and better connectivity to our nearby cities and large employment centers, building new grid technologies that will host the expansion of clean, renewable energy and battery storage, electrified transportation and the infrastructure to support, as well as agricultural and waste solutions that reduce carbon and methane production. Howard County, with its rich science, business and advanced education population base, would stand to benefit greatly from this generational business opportunity. The Biden Administration has set the table for this, and state programs to support this transition are already beginning to roll out in 2023.

As we saw in the hearing, our high school and college kids are watching, and expected this elected body to act decisively on climate. This will become their world, let's help to make it a livable one.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard & Vanessa Deutschmann
9485 Hickory Limb
Columbia, MD 21045
M – (410)707-4368

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Gas vs electric

For Related Documents under CB5-2023.

From: KATHLEEN JESTES <heykathleen1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:10 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Gas vs electric

Liz,

I just saw on Nextdoor the debate about gas vs electric for new homes. I just wanted to add my “no” vote to it.

Our nephew is an electrician, he has pretty strong reasons why electric is not the way to go for cars and anything else like this.

Thanks for listening,

Kathy Jestes

4954 Overlook Dr

Ellicott City, Md. 21043

410-461-1219

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Cheryl Arney <cherylarney@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:18 PM
To: CouncilMail; Cheryl Arney
Subject: Written Testimony on CB5-2023

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

I would like to submit the following written testimony on CB5-2023, the Building Electrification Bill.

I am Cheryl Arney. I live at 4361 Wild Filly Court, Ellicott City, 21042, in the Dorsey hall neighborhood of Columbia.

I am testifying in favor of passage of CB5-2023.

My testimony is in two parts. I would first like to tell my own story about building electrification. And then I would like to rebut some of the points made at the public hearing on January 17, 2023.

My husband and I bought our current home as a new home in 1980 in Dorsey Hall in Columbia. We were one of the first homeowners in this new Village. At that time, gas had not come to this neighborhood. All new homes were heated and cooled by electric heat pumps. This was the latest, most modern way to do that. Of course, all appliances were also electric, gas not being available. This did not seem to be an impediment to purchasers of new homes; the neighborhood was developed rapidly. The lack of access to gas did not even occur to us as an issue.

When gas lines came to our neighborhood in the early 90's, we decided to switch to gas. The arguments at the time were that gas power would be cheaper and "feel warmer". Although we got a gas furnace, we did not get a gas stove. Climate change as an issue had barely arisen in the public consciousness. Climate scientist James Hansen had only testified about this to Congress in 1988, and Al Gore's book "Earth in the Balance" had only been published in 1992.

I now regret our decision to switch to gas for heating and cooling our home. I now see the urgency of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels because of their climate impact. Methane, which is the primary component of so-called "natural gas", is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide at heating earth's atmosphere. And methane seems to be leaking from gas-associated apparatus just about everywhere.

I now also realize the health dangers from unburned methane gas that leaks into homes powered by gas, as was mentioned by many people who testified on January 17. When the gas is burned, nitrous oxide is a health-harming co-pollutant. On the very day of the public hearing (January 17), the Washington Post had an article headlined "Gas stoves, kids' asthma cases linked, report says" in its Health and Science section.

Further, gas is currently more expensive than electricity for heating homes and is predicted to be much more expensive in the future. So the original argument for switching to gas, that it is less expensive, is no longer valid. Instead, we've seen a rapid drop in the cost of solar panels for generating electricity. With many jurisdictions, including the state of Maryland and our own Howard County, setting goals to be zero-emission at certain dates in the future, and the state of Maryland having a "carve-out" for solar generated within our state, the demand for solar panels will surely increase which generally results in a decrease in price as economies of scale in manufacturing take effect. If at some point there is more demand than supply resulting in an increase in the price of clean electricity, the market will respond to that demand and eventually prices will come down again. Once electricity is generated by either wind or solar, there is no further cost for "fuel" -- sunlight and wind are free. The only cost is maintenance. Even if the initial cost should be higher, the long term cost will be lower.

As for gas feeling "warmer" for heating a home? Heat pumps have experienced many improvements over the 42 years since we first had ours installed. They not only more comfortably heat homes but they do it much more efficiently, as one of the testifiers mentioned. Again, this is a factor that will LOWER the cost of all electric homes. And it is no longer true that heat pumps only work in climates with mild winters, as another testifier mentioned. If the Council wanted to verify these assertions, I suggest you consult local providers of both heat pumps and gas furnaces.

There are still parts of Howard County without access to gas for homes. Access to gas / methane in homes is not a RIGHT ! It wasn't in the past when we bought our home, and it isn't now. I think this is a very important point that should be stressed.

And the proposed legislation will not require homes that are currently heated by gas to refit their homes. It will only require NEW homes to be all electric.

Will the lack of gas / methane in new homes discourage new home buyers from locating in Howard County? First, there is the availability of already built homes that do have gas. Second, there are so many other reasons why home buyers will want to buy in Howard County that the presence of gas will be only a minor consideration, just as it was when we bought our new all electric home in 1980. If after due consideration a home buyer decides to buy in another county in order to have gas, so be it. But it will not be Montgomery County because Montgomery County has just passed the type of legislation Howard County is now considering.

If all electric homes happen to be more expensive than ones heated by gas (a hypothesis I suggest is probably not true), will that discourage home buyers from buying in Howard County? I don't think so. We are one of the most wealthy counties in the nation, perhaps THE MOST wealthy county. One has only to drive around Howard County to see the price of homes in new developments -- "from the mid-800's", etc. I hardly think a \$10,000 difference in cost between gas and electric will be a deciding factor for the people buying these homes.

Another factor that may lower the cost of heat pumps in new homes is the 2022 passed Inflation Reduction Act. I know there are tax credits for existing homeowners to install electric heat pumps or electric hot water heat pumps (I think the credit is \$2000 and not income limited), but I don't know if there's a provision that would somehow lower the cost of these units in a newly built home. But that's something I think the Council should look into.

What about renters? All electric rental units will not be subject to fluctuations in the price of fossil fuels caused by global events. Once solar and wind and other clean renewable resources generate electricity, they are located in this country and require no "fuel" that is subject to fluctuations in global prices. Renters will be protected from price fluctuations by using clean produced electricity rather than fossil fuel.

And renters will not be subjected to the harmful health effects from gas in their buildings, about which they have no choice.

Another objection to passing CB5-2023 was that the state of Maryland was doing a similar study on building codes this year that was mandated by the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. The objection was based on the assumption that the Howard County study would be redundant with the State study. HOWEVER, the State study was on electrifying new buildings in Maryland that were greater than 25,000 square feet. These are not residential homes! The study being considered in the Howard County bill is entirely different from the study required by Climate Solutions Now.

Another objection raised to this bill is that there will not be an adequate supply of electricity to power all new homes in our County with electricity. I think this is a matter of which comes first, the chicken or the egg. If Howard County passes a bill that will increase, (but only modestly), the need for electricity in our County, then the utilities that provide electricity and the Public Service Commission that oversees these utilities will respond by planning how to meet the new demand . Because of new laws passed by the state of Maryland that have increased goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it is likely that this new electricity will be generated from renewable resources, a win for our environment.

Finally, a last comment on my own "story": We currently own a gas furnace and gas hot water heater that are only about 10 years old. It would not be good for either the environment or our pocket book to replace them until they need to be replaced,

which will probably be in around five years. But when we do replace them, it will be with a modern heat pump and hot water heat pump. And because of the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress, it will cost somewhat less to do that than otherwise. I will feel much better when we return to living in an all electric home, just like we did when we bought our home in 1980.

Thank you for your consideration of this written testimony.

Howard County Council Hearing
January 17, 2023
CB5-2023
Progressive Democrats of Howard County
In Favor with Amendments

The most recent IPCC report focused on methane, its role as a destructive greenhouse gas, and what we need to do in order to avoid climate catastrophe in regards to methane reduction. Here are some excerpts from what leaders at the Climate and Clean Air Coalition had to say about how to tackle this problem:

In 2018 the IPCC report laid out that we had 12 years to radically change course and drastically cut our carbon and methane emissions. We have now spent 4 going on 5 years of relative inaction. Our current targets according to the Paris Agreement of staying under 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels is cutting methane by 33% by 2030 (ONLY SEVEN YEARS AWAY) and cutting it by 45% by 2040. Cutting methane is actually the easier goal to reach. We know the source, and are able to take action to reduce that source. It's actually carbon dioxide that is the bigger task in emission reduction. In other words, implementing a bill like this is just a first step in a path scientific data has shown we absolutely must take, so there's really no reason to debate it.

However, we face certain challenges that need to be addressed for a successful implementation of complete decarbonization of our communities.

We are all aware of the equities the fossil fuel industries cause and exploit.

U.S. offshore Gulf drilling for the oil industry has subsided in recent years, due to increasing costs of drilling in deeper water. Instead, they have set their sights on less-tapped oil fields in Suriname and Guyana's stabroek block- exploiting less-developed countries where drilling is cheaper and more abundant. The consortium opening up these drilling opportunities is comprised of Exxon, Hess and China's CNOOC. Just to illustrate the exploitation of Guyana: The consortium is fronting the costs for the drilling wells, but in return they will recover 75% when revenues start rolling in. On top of that, Exxon will receive an additional 12.5% in revenues. Guyana will then collect 12.5% — which will amount to a little over \$1.5 billion — plus a 2% royalty on any revenues thereafter.

Last year, Guyana earned over \$1B from its portion of the profit-sharing with this consortium, but that's way below industry norms.¹

It has been *such* a lopsided deal for Guyana, in fact, that the International Monetary Fund has urged their government to demand better deals, because they're being taken advantage of by the oil industry.

¹ [AP News- Guyana: 1.3 billion barrels in ExxonMobil offshore oil field](#)- BERT WILKINSON January 10, 2023

The fracking industry is doing the same thing. Fracking in areas like the Marcellus Shale region tend to happen in poor rural communities whose residents have to endure the brunt of the pollution. According to a study conducted by the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, current fracking setbacks are woefully inadequate. This isn't just a PA problem, the fracking boom happened without an understanding of how far humans should be from fracking pollution in order to be considered safe. To illustrate: some wells are operating as close as 300 feet away from occupied buildings, when the study found that a minimum of 1,320 feet is necessary to protect against illnesses associated with fracking proximity: asthma, migraines, fatigue and childhood cancers.²

In 2018, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that oil & gas companies can be charged with trespassing if they extract resources from underneath a property for which they don't have a lease as they operate an adjacent fracking well- a reasonable ruling given the known destruction fracking can cause to the underground rock layers. The industry is trying to get that ruling overturned. By continuing to rely on fossil fuels we are enabling and funding continued injustice. It's time to turn the corner, embrace the clean jobs that the Inflation Reduction Act is bringing to the communities across the country, and stop the disparity of pollution in our poorer communities.²

At the top of the latest COP, Al Gore said, "It is a choice to continue this pattern of destructive behavior." It is destructive behavior not only to continue to rely on fossil fuels when we have cleaner energy sourcing available, but it is also destructive behavior to listen to those who will try to sway us from making those better decisions. You're going to hear from industry, corporate interests and lobbyists speaking against this bill who will tell you this isn't feasible, it's too hard, it's unfair, we can't do it...

At the same time, the deployment of renewable resources has been very slow. According to Maryland Code, Public Utilities 7-703, the statutory requirement for Maryland's renewable energy portfolio in 2023 is 35.4% Tier 1 renewable resources with at least 9.5% derived from solar and an amount set by the Public Service Commission from offshore wind energy.³

According to an analysis by the Energy Information Administration, in 2021, Maryland produced about 12% of its total electricity from renewable electricity. Of this, 4.8% was solar energy, with almost 3% coming from roof-top solar and the remaining 1.8% coming from utility scale solar. Wind accounted for 1.2% of the total 12%.⁴

² [2 Fracking in Pennsylvania is too close to residents for safety: Study- Kristina Marusic](#)

August 23, 2018 Environmental Health News

³ FindLaw.com - Maryland Code, Public Utilities § 7-703 - last updated December 31, 2021 |

<https://codes.findlaw.com/md/public-utilities/md-code-public-util-sect-7-703/>

⁴ <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=MD>

In other words, excluding roof-top solar, which is not subject to the same market penalty and reward systems as utility scale solar, the state's accountable solar production is less than 20% of its statutory 9.5% requirement.

This is the most staggering statistic: Maryland's Tier 1 renewable production is LESS THAN ONE PERCENT of the 35.4% statutory requirement, because Hydro is a TIER 2 resource.

There is no realistic path under which Maryland will reach its target. According to the same EIA report Maryland almost quadrupled its solar output between 2015 and 2021, which is an annualized rate of 25%. In order to meet the statutory 2030 goal of 50% Tier 1, Maryland's production would need to increase by 50-fold per year.

When policies are not grounded on the realities and challenges, the impact on reliability and cost-increases such policies create are also borne by the poor.

It is inevitable, we are headed toward a renewable industry. The question is how will we get there. Will we get there by creating incentives for extractive practices that do harm to developing world or will we encourage responsible practices that don't leave the developing world ravaged, much like the actions of the fossil fuel industry.

This bill calls on the department of licensing and inspections to develop a plan for electrification. While we are encouraged by this move, we are also calling on the county to identify how it will meet the load demand after the transition. Given the constraints of deployment, the current track is making way for more natural gas, shifting source of emissions. Electrification replaces the gas pipes with wires at the home, but it does not replace the natural gas plants.

We don't have the luxury of not doing it, switching to clean energy on a massive scale and cutting our emissions to zero is a scientific and social justice NECESSITY. So their opinions are just noise. Let's cut through the noise, and enact legislation that gets us to where we know we need to go, because we are out of time.

We would like to see this legislation pass with strengthening amendments given the short timeframe we have to make massive cuts globally.

Thank you

Testimony in support of CB5-2023

Submitted 1-22-2023

My name is Liz Feighner of Laurel, MD and I'm a 30-year resident from Council District 3. I strongly urge the council members to support CB5, which directs Howard County Government to develop all-electric building standards for new construction and issue those recommendations in a report. This is a crucial step that is necessary to reduce our rising greenhouse gas emissions by no longer constructing new buildings that will burn methane gas for at least a decade or more. A [new study from the Rhodium Group](#) showed that U.S. 2022 carbon emissions increased when measured against a pandemic decline in 2020. The most significant reason for the 2022 increase in GHG emissions was due to methane gas use in buildings for heating such as furnaces, hot water heaters and other appliances. We are heading in the wrong direction and need to reverse this trend.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent report finds that only with ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions can the world keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the limit scientists say is necessary for preventing the worst climate impacts. We've already warmed it by more than 1.1C and GHG emissions are continuing to increase. We are in a climate crisis and we have dug ourselves into a massive hole and we must stop digging/drilling now, literally and figuratively.

We cannot achieve ambitious emission reductions if we allow new construction of buildings that burn fossil fuels for heating and cooking, especially when [HoCo By Design](#) projects a demand for 31,000 new homes and 16.5M sq. ft. of commercial space over the next 20 years. The buildings sector accounts for about 13% of Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions. If we are to meet Dr. Ball's executive order ([2022-12](#)) addressing greenhouse gas reduction goals which I applaud, we must electrify new construction now. We have no chance if we cannot even prevent the expansion of gas in new construction – this is low hanging fruit.

All-Electric new construction is cost-effective and a reasonable first step since we need to stop increasing our emissions while working to reduce them. The first core recommendation related to buildings in the [Maryland Commission on Climate Change's](#) (MCCC) [Annual 2022 report](#) (page 30) is to adopt an all-electric construction code. This recommendation was from the [Building Energy Transition Plan](#). The Building Energy Transition Plan expands on the recommendation: (page 5) "The General Assembly should require the Maryland Building Code Administration to adopt a code that ensures that new buildings meet all water and space heating demand without the use of fossil fuels." A building decarbonization study **found that all-electric new buildings typically have the lowest construction and operating costs, especially in single-family homes.** (page 7 of [Building Energy Transition Plan](#)). Consumer costs are listed on page 15 showing that all electric is less expensive than mixed-fuel buildings. All of this information and more is from a report prepared by the MCCC, which is charged with advising the Governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change.

The Maryland Office of the People's Counsel [estimates that residential gas costs](#) will increase by approximately 100% to 200% by 2035, so burdening Maryland households with skyrocketing utility costs is not in the interest of Marylanders, only in the interest of the utilities and fossil fuel companies. In fact, Maryland's three largest gas utilities are [projected to spend \\$34.5 billion on capital investments](#) (gas infrastructure replacement and expansion) through 2100 and **utilities' customers would be on the hook for \$125 billion for this spending.** Howard County should protect future homeowners/renters from skyrocketing gas bills by not allowing new construction with gas furnaces, water heaters and appliances that will lock them in for probably 15-20 years. They will not be loving those gas appliances when the bills come due.

I have not even discussed the health impacts, costs and dangers of fossil fuels being used in our homes and communities. The devastation from fracking, leaking pipelines, gas line explosions, and indoor and outdoor air quality is unacceptable and incompatible with a healthy home and planet.

For my own home, we swapped out our gas furnace and water heater systems with a geothermal heat pump over 10 years ago and will soon be swapping out our highly polluting and dangerous gas cooktop. While a geothermal system isn't an option for many people, highly efficient, cost-effective heat pumps that perform very well in cold climates like Maine are a terrific option. We couldn't be happier that we no longer use dangerous gas to heat our home and we no longer have high energy bills.

I'd like to conclude my comments with 2 quotes from author and environmentalist, Bill McKibben- "When you are in a hole, stop digging" and "Winning slowly is the same as losing". I will add my own – we are losing quickly and we must stop this insanity of expanding the use of fossil fuels.

In addition to my own testimony, I would like to mention that I am a volunteer with HoCo Climate Action and we have worked closely with other advocates and organizations on this critical issue to electrify all new buildings. We developed two letters: One for the county council urging passage of CB5 and one for the county exec urging strong support.

We circulated these letters among our organizations and members. In less than two weeks, we were able to gather 11 organization sign-ons (including several faith communities) and around 100 constituent signatures (not including the 180 student signatures gathered by Neal Goturi who spoke earlier in the hearing). We submitted the letter in the afternoon of January 17 with signatures we gathered so far and are gathering even more and will update in the coming weeks.

This issue is extremely important to your constituents, including the approximately 180 students who signed on to this letter. We are all concerned about the world the youth of today are inheriting. In fact, the IPCC's latest report was described by the UN Secretary-General as a code red for humanity, an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership. Please don't fail Howard County – pass CB5.

I'd like to close with one of my favorite quotes – A native American proverb - We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Feighner
10306 Champions Way
Laurel, MD 20723
District 3

Sayers, Margery

From: Steven Stuck <Steven.Stuck.485031027@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 2:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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

Dear Council Members,

I urge you to vote NO on Bill 5-2023, which seeks to advance an all-electric county building code.

While I support efforts to safeguard Maryland's environment and protect it for the future, this proposal goes too far, too soon, without providing for a balance of energy choices that still allows us to work towards being net-zero carbon.

Forcing homes and businesses to go all-electric is not only costly, but also decreases energy resilience and increases the negative effects of power outages. One cyberattack or weather event could leave millions without any source of electricity or heat. Energy reliability and resilience is best achieved through energy diversity.

Using a combination of low-carbon and renewable energy solutions, combined with electricity will allow us to protect the environment and reduce emissions in a pragmatic way that still respects consumer choice and allows Marylanders access to energy options that make the most economic sense to them.

Restricting the marketplace and increasing costs on energy consumers, especially as they combat historic inflation, is a bad idea. A recent study analyzing the costs of whole-home electrification in Baltimore found that added construction costs range from \$4,000 to \$15,000, while banning natural gas would increase annual energy costs by up to \$500.

Homeowners, small businesses and the industries that support Howard County are requesting a smart and multi-pronged approach to reduce emissions and safeguard the economy. An all-electric building code is anything but that.

Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Steven Stuck
326 Mountaintop Rd
Mchenry, MD 21541

Sayers, Margery

From: Keri Woods <Keri.Woods.532689854@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 2:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Keri Woods
350 W Liberty St
Oakland, MD 21550

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Gas Stoves

For Related Documents under CB5-2023.

From: Todd Taylor <fttaylor51@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Gas Stoves

Please tell me you are fighting the bill to ban gas appliances.

Sayers, Margery

From: James Dunn <James.Dunn.485055841@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 2:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
James Dunn
18034 Shawley Dr
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Sayers, Margery

From: GAYLE JORDAN <GAYLE.JORDAN.536204190@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 2:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
GAYLE JORDAN
350 W Liberty St
Oakland, MD 21550

Sayers, Margery

From: Gerald Jones <Gerald.Jones.601311521@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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Regards,
Gerald Jones
350 W Liberty St
Oakland, MD 21550

Sayers, Margery

From: Michael Loeffert <Michael.Loeffert.485036897@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Michael Loeffert
1115 E High St
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Sayers, Margery

From: Frank Taylor <Frank.Taylor.485054455@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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Regards,
Frank Taylor
21434 Great Mills Rd
Lexington Park, MD 20653

Sayers, Margery

From: Ryan Vance <Ryan.Vance.485027842@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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Forcing homes and businesses to go all-electric is not only costly, but also decreases energy resilience and increases the negative effects of power outages. One cyberattack or weather event could leave millions without any source of electricity or heat. Energy reliability and resilience is best achieved through energy diversity.

Using a combination of low-carbon and renewable energy solutions, combined with electricity will allow us to protect the environment and reduce emissions in a pragmatic way that still respects consumer choice and allows Marylanders access to energy options that make the most economic sense to them.

Restricting the marketplace and increasing costs on energy consumers, especially as they combat historic inflation, is a bad idea. A recent study analyzing the costs of whole-home electrification in Baltimore found that added construction costs range from \$4,000 to \$15,000, while banning natural gas would increase annual energy costs by up to \$500.

Homeowners, small businesses and the industries that support Howard County are requesting a smart and multi-pronged approach to reduce emissions and safeguard the economy. An all-electric building code is anything but that.

Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Ryan Vance
350 W Liberty St
Oakland, MD 21550

Sayers, Margery

From: Jesse Sapp <Jesse.Sapp.585692546@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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

Dear Council Members,

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Jesse Sapp
500 Energy Ln
Dover, DE 19901

Sayers, Margery

From: Timothy Quinn <Timothy.Quinn.485021497@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Timothy Quinn
1204 Dahlia Ct
Bel Air, MD 21014

Sayers, Margery

From: Casandra Russo <Casandra.Russo.485082715@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 12:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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

Dear Council Members,

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Casandra Russo
1288 Cimmeron Way
Lincoln, CA 95648

Sayers, Margery

From: Greg Moore <Greg.Moore.585177881@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 12:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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

Dear Council Members,

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Greg Moore
22945 E Piney Grove Rd
Georgetown, DE 19947

Sayers, Margery

From: Steven Farkas <Steven.Farkas.485036059@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 12:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote no on Bill 5-2023!

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Dear Council Members,

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Again, please vote NO on Bill 5-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Steven Farkas
9387 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:24 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please support CB5-2023

For Related Documents under CB5-2023.

From: Sabrina Fu <rousfu@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:37 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please support CB5-2023

Hello Councilwoman Walsh,

My name is Sabrina Fu and I live on Madelaine Court and you have been my council representative for a while now.

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 know that we need to transition out of fossil fuels for many reasons. We might as well do it with new buildings. I can tell you first hand that I would have preferred having geothermal installed when the house was built than when the house was 22 years old!
It would have been so much easier —and less expensive!

With appreciation for all that you do,
Sabrina S. Fu
9817 Madelaine Court,
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:21 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB-5

For Related Documents under CB5-2023.

From: Ginger Segala <gjsegala5@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB-5

Ms Walsh-

Thank you for your service to the county. We are writing to express our concern about CB-5.

We have a lot of questions about how it will affect the ability of homeowners to renovate their homes. Many of the people in our neighborhood spent money to “upgrade” to gas heating, fireplaces, water heaters and stoves. Now, our understanding is that if someone wants to update or put on an addition- they could be forced to reverse those choices.

While we applaud the move to green decisions with new construction and commercial renovations, we do believe it’s an undue burden on private homeowners. We are barely able to continue to live in Howard County as it is!

The verbiage in the bill appears to allow many interpretations and we request that you help to alleviate the confusion and potential burden on private homeowners.

Thank you

Ginger and John Segala

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:21 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please OPPOSE CB5-2023

For Related Documents under CB5-2023.

From: tomkasubamd@netscape.net <tomkasubamd@netscape.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please OPPOSE CB5-2023

Please **OPPOSE** CB5-2023

Why are we creating a monopoly of energy type? Diversity of energy is a strength for resiliency in case of electric grid failure. There exist both cyber and physical threats to our electrical infrastructure. Just search "dangers EMP grid" to read about the true worries the Department of Homeland Security has concerning an Electromagnetic Pulse Attack on the United States [1]. This isn't a tale out of a fairy tale, this is real. The loss of our power grid doesn't have to be a man-made disaster, it could be natural and it HAS happened. Read this NASA report of a solar flare taking down the Quebec power grid on March 13, 1989. [2] We have to maintain diversity in our heating, cooling, and cooking energy sources rather than putting all our eggs in one basket!

BGE reports in [3] that 39.84% of its electricity supplied in 2020 was generate by natural gas. Be aware that the conversion of energy between forms will result in loss. The report in [4] from the Energy Information Administration estimates that Marylanders loose 9.5% of electricity energy in transmission alone! Could it be that if we just used the natural gas directly instead of converting it into electricity we'd actually be saving energy? This might be something to ponder.

I grew up in Scranton, PA where I NEVER experienced random light flickerings, unexplained brief power outages, exploding neighborhood transformers and extended outages lasting for days due to storms as I have here in Howard County of all places. Something is wrong with our local grid and putting more stress on it certainly won't help.

Thomas J. Kasuba (registered Democrat)
2917 Rosemar Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043-3332
tomkasubamd@netscape.net
301-688-8543 (day)
January 21, 2023

[1] <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/09/03/dhs-combats-potential-electromagnetic-pulse-emp-attack>

[2] https://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/sun_darkness.html

[3] https://www.bge.com/MyAccount/MyBillUsage/Documents/BGE2002_11152021DECPS.pdf#search=emission%20disclosure%202021

[4] <https://insideenergy.org/2015/11/06/lost-in-transmission-how-much-electricity-disappears-between-a-power-plant-and-your-plug/>

Sayers, Margery

From: RUTH WHITE <rkwhite@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 9:12 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: expansion of prior testimony on CB5-2023

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

In my verbal testimony I responded to some testimony from someone who testified before me.

I felt what they said was not in line with my observation of the proceedings of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) in the fall 2021.

E3 did a study for the MCCC's Mitigation Working Group (MWG) which provided data on various level of electrification. . Early in the deliberations the study data appeared to discourage "high electrification. However, The Office of the People's Council (OPC) questioned some of the E3 data and the conclusion it was leading to. OPC submitted a technical report from Synapse. See [an OPC memo on this](#) and another [document from OPC attaching the Synapse study](#) (both files are .pdf from Google Drive)

After receiving the OPC critique of the earlier E3 report for the MCCC MWG, the MWG CHANGED their recommendation for building electrification from mixed use to full electric. The FINAL report was for full electrification. See:

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/2021%20Annual%20Report%20FINAL%20\(2\).pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/2021%20Annual%20Report%20FINAL%20(2).pdf)

The final MCCC - Md Commission on Climate Change, Nov 2021 p30::

"Adopt an All-Electric Construction Code"

The full text of the following buildings recommendations can be found in the FINAL Building Energy Transition Plan which is part of the final MCCC report

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/2021%20Annual%20Report%20Appendices%20FINAL.pdf>

Which says on page 5:

"Adopt an All-Electric Construction Code – The General Assembly should require the Maryland Building Code Administration to adopt a code that ensures that new buildings meet all water and space heating demand without the use of fossil fuels."

It is incorrect to say that the MCCC final report concluded that a combined gas/electric delivery system is best. They debated that and came to the opposite conclusion.

From page 9

“A fuel-backup approach is problematic – Several stakeholders raised concerns that implementing an Electrification with Fuel Backup scenario is impractical given utility ratemaking law and consumer behavior. Maryland’s Office of People’s Counsel wrote in its comments, *“The [Electrification with Fuel Backup scenario] would require coordinating rate setting for not one, but two, utilities. This expectation of precision rate setting is both legally and practically unrealistic... the effort under the [Electrification with Fuel Backup] scenario would require coordinating the price signals of two utilities with competing interests. These utilities will not agree on the proper price signals. Based on our experience, this assumption of efficient rate setting across utilities is not realistic.”*

From page 10

“The Office of People’s Counsel added, “The transition toward a clean energy system will require significant efforts to address equity impacts, but maintaining two systems [electric and gas] will significantly exacerbate inequities. It is undisputed that maintaining the gas system for backup use requires substantial increases in the rates for gas delivery. The high electrification case requires no backup fuels, thus obviating the need for the massive capital investments that have yet to be made to maintain the gas infrastructure.” Other stakeholders expressed similar concerns. This feedback led to having E3 model a fourth scenario that shows a more practical approach to decarbonizing buildings.”

See also page 19

“ 1. Adopt an All-Electric Construction Code” - a discussion on an all electric code that continues to page 20.

Thus MCCC did NOT endorse a mixed fuel option for electrification - a scenario discussed in an earlier E3 study utilities love to cite. The way the MCCC was originally leaning was superseded by the Synapse Study which caused a reconsideration by E3 AND by the MWG (Mitigation Working Group of the MCCC) and was endorsed by the MCCC in the final Nov 2021 report. This final MCCC report and the E3 study which again was modified based on improved data and assumptions before the final report was issued, has been repeatedly misquoted and misrepresented. The final conclusion was to support full electrification not mixed use.

Again, the MCCC MWG did NOT buy this. They found the E3 report for the MWG flawed and used it to some extent but modified their recommendation to "high electrification" based on Synapse corrections to the earlier E3 faulty assumptions on data that included the future price of gas.

FEBRUARY-MARCH Hearing on Climate Solutions Act

BUT in testimony about the Climate Solutions Act - opponents quoted early versions of the E3 study and the interim draft MWG report BEFORE OPC interceded with the Synapse report and E3 re-analysis. Again, the FINAL MCCC report was for full electrification and was not relying on mixed fuel alternatives.

January 2023.

Gov Hogan's [Department of Labor’s Building Codes Administration presented an interim report](#) in early January 2023 which appears unnecessarily conservative. The final report is due December 2023 and will be done under Gov Moore’s new appointee. It may reach very different conclusions.

Additional thoughts:

Right now the grid is summer peaking and most of the year has great excess capacity. Sometime in the next 20 or 30 years, when most buildings and cars are all electric, the grid will become winter peaking. That is many years in the future. New buildings may be 1% a year. That is not enough to reverse grid peaking now. Grid capacity increases year by year. The modest increase caused by new buildings is not going to be a threat to the grid.

And electrification of new buildings, with few exceptions, should not be an issue. Why do opponents bring up recommendations for a need for gas/electric mix in new buildings when many new buildings are built today that are all electric?

E3 did a study for BGE in 2022. I heard a key Maryland legislator speak at a recent MCCC meeting minimizing this study. He said a technical report is as good as the assumptions the group paying for the report gives to the research firm. We cannot assume that BGE gave E3 the same assumptions that the MCCC relies on.

It seems one of the groups submitting testimony on CB5-2023 citing the E3 study for BGE. The study is as good as the assumptions it is based on. We cannot assume the BGE assumptions are unbiased. There was a preliminary E3 study for the MCCC which was then rethought based on the Snapse study which brought in more data on future costs of gas and changed the final MCCC recommendations. I think that references to E3 study needs to be evaluated in the light of the final conclusions of the MCCC.

Thanks for your consideration.

Ruth White
8945 Footed Ridge
Columbia Md