

Sayers, Margery

From: Taylor Templeton, Marche:(BGE) <Marche.TaylorTempleton@bge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: BGE Supplemental Testimony - 5-2023
Attachments: Final Howard County Council - Supplemental Testimony CB 5-2023 .pdf

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

Dear Council Chair Rigby,

Thank you so much for your leadership and thoughtful engagement on council bill 5-2023.

Please find attached supplemental testimony from BGE.

Thank you again for all you do and have a great day.

Kind Regards,

Marché

Marché Taylor Templeton

External Affairs Manager, Western Territory

Governmental and External Affairs

110 W. Fayette St.

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone Number: 667-313-1079

bge.com



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Howard County Council Bill 5-2023

BGE appreciates the opportunity to supplement the record before the second public hearing for CB 5-2023 and would like to again express our support for Howard County's decarbonization goals. We are also committed to aiding our customers and communities in identifying pathways, which equitably and affordably allow the county to meet and exceed its decarbonization goals without jeopardizing reliability by using an integrated energy system solution approach.

State Studies

As you are aware, the General Assembly directed the Public Service Commission to assess the capacity of each utility's gas and electricity distribution systems to successfully serve customers under a managed transition to a highly electrified building sector. The MD PSC study will leverage input from all the utilities on their ability to operate and maintain the electric system through its transition to decarbonization. The additional electrical load added to the grid will have an impact on system capacity and operations. We believe this information should be used to inform Howard County's plan toward electrification.

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 Maryland policymakers to select the best path forward to decarbonize buildings. The Department is required to present a final report by December 1, 2023.

There are several approaches to reducing the carbon footprint of the building sector. BGE believes Maryland legislators should not commit to a specific, limited decarbonization strategy without the benefit of the MD PSC and Maryland Department of Labor studies.

Costs

Concerns about costs multiply significantly when one looks at the impacts on energy costs. BGE projects that it will need to build or expand 250 substations and roughly double its feeder system to support building and transportation electrification in its service territory, with investments likely to exceed \$50B.

Beyond the financial impacts of the needed investments, the increase in infrastructure will require additional real estate for substations and the use of the public rights of way for the installation of infrastructure. The associated construction activity associated with this work will have a significant impact on traffic, the communities we serve and the county's roadways. An integrated energy system reduces the overall costs by \$8B - \$12B and minimize construction activity.

Given these critical dynamics – which affect all residents, not just those in newly constructed buildings – BGE believes policymakers should carefully select options that are shown to meet their carbon reduction goals with minimal impact to ratepayers.



Supplemental Testimony
Howard County Council
2/20/23

Electricity Transition Context

An all-electric residential development may present what seems to be only incremental demands on the system, but the demands may look far more daunting when they include powering the development's electric passenger vehicles, electric service vehicles, schools, and electric school buses.

BGE believes significant planning and investment will be needed to meet these transitions, which rely on the same distribution infrastructure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide supplemental comments on CB 5-2023. We look forward to our partnership in reaching the Howard County's and Maryland's climate goals.

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Parsa <carolyn.parsa@mdsierra.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Ball, Calvin; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Subject: Sierra Club Support for CB5-2023 - as amended

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

County Council Members,

The Howard County Sierra Club is in strong support for CB5-2023 as amended. Thank you for strengthening this important bill. We ask that you pass this bill at your next voting session.

Thank you.

--
Carolyn Parsa
Sierra Club Howard County Chair
Natural Places Committee Legislative Workgroup Chair

Sayers, Margery

From: Betsy Singer <betsysingermarcus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote "yes" for CB5 as Amended-Hearing 2/21/23

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

February 16, 2023

Dear County Council Members:

The County Council will deserve credit for putting the health and finances of Howard County residents first by passing CB5-2023, a bill that would require the County Executive to submit a report 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.

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Howard County testified at the January 17, 2023 hearing in favor of CB5. The JCRC is submitting this letter in **support** of the subsequent CB5, as amended by the County Council, and scheduled for the hearing on February 21, 2023.

Howard County must be part of the solution to our climate crisis. CB5-2023 is essential if we are to stop burning fossil fuels in new buildings. 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 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. 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 U.S. is attributable to gas stove use." Howard County residents deserve better.

Again, we want to make a strong statement of support for CB5-2023 so that Howard County can make progress toward accomplishing a cleaner, healthier future.

Sincerely,

Betsy Singer, Co-Chair
Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Federation of Howard County
10630 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 400
Columbia, MD 21044

Betsy Singer, Co-Chair, JCRC
Jewish Federation of Howard County
betsysingermarcus@gmail.com
443-812-2525 cell

Sayers, Margery

From: Cliff Strawitch <strawitch@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please pass the Clean New Buildings Act - CB5-2023

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

Dear County Council Members,

The climate crisis demands that we address greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the coming climate disaster. Our homes and vehicles contribute 42% of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States when they burn fossil fuels including the use of methane (so called "natural" gas) in our homes for space and water heating, as well as clothes drying and food cooking. In addition, escaping methane gas is a potent greenhouse gas that is over 80 times as powerful as carbon dioxide. As the county grows, an essential step is to require that future buildings be all electric to eliminate the greenhouse gases that are currently produced in our homes.

Please support the passage of CB5-2023 as the first step towards electrifying all new buildings in Howard County.

Dr. Cliff Strawitch
3927 White Rose Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: MARK ROBERTS <MARK.ROBERTS.602174244@p2a.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:58 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,
MARK ROBERTS
898 Airport Park Rd
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Sayers, Margery

From: Michael Hawkins <Michael.Hawkins.485056462@p2a.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 2:05 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.

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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.

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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,
Michael Hawkins
839 Bestgate Rd
Annapolis, MD 21401

Sayers, Margery

From: URSULA Kondo <ykondo@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:06 PM
To: howard-citizen@googlegroups.com; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] [The Washington Post] Woman plotted with neo-Nazi to attack power grid, feds say

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

Looking up if gas will still be delivered if the electric grid is compromised, unfortunately gas can not be pumped through the pipes without the use of electricity.
Since the latest research shows that gas can cause considerable health issues, it seems to be a better choice to restrict future gas hook-ups.
Ursula Kondo

On 02/06/2023 6:38 PM 'MARC NORMAN' via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com> wrote:

Dear Councilmembers,

As you prepare to vote on restricting future natural gas hookups, please consider today's news regarding the arrest of terrorists planning to attack Baltimore's electric infrastructure. The grid's vulnerability should be extensively studied so you can render an informed decision to protect your 350,000 constituents from the apocalyptic impact of reducing our energy supply to a single source of highly dubious reliability.

Thank you.

Marc Norman

Ellicott City

Woman plotted with neo-Nazi to attack power grid, feds say

Officials say a Maryland woman conspired with a neo-Nazi leader in Florida to plan an attack on Baltimore's power grid in an effort to further their racist mission

By Lea Skene and Eric Tucker | AP

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/woman-charged-with-plotting-to-disable-baltimore-power-grid/2023/02/06/99343b24-a642-11ed-b2a3-edb05ee0e313_story.html

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NOTE 1: When you choose REPLY, it will go to the entire group.
To send to one member, enter that address in the TO window.

NOTE 2: HCCA does not take responsibility for the content of messages posted on the listserv; assertions should be verified before placing reliance on them.

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Howard-Citizen" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to howard-citizen+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/howard-citizen/32FC8668-5AD4-49FA-9383-21A08C6E4D9C%40verizon.net>.

Sayers, Margery

From: Hiruy Hadgu <hadguhiruy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 7:14 PM
To: howard-citizen@googlegroups.com
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] [The Washington Post] Woman plotted with neo-Nazi to attack power grid, feds say

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

Marc,

Great points and observation made here.

A principle from designing redundant safety systems is applicable here. A diverse power source reduces the chances of common-mode failure. Diverse sources of electricity is critical to ensuring redundant safety systems and we are heading directly away from such design principles.

Hiruy.

On Mon, Feb 6, 2023 at 6:38 PM 'MARC NORMAN' via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com> wrote:

Dear Councilmembers,

As you prepare to vote on restricting future natural gas hookups, please consider today's news regarding the arrest of terrorists planning to attack Baltimore's electric infrastructure. The grid's vulnerability should be extensively studied so you can render an informed decision to protect your 350,000 constituents from the apocalyptic impact of reducing our energy supply to a single source of highly dubious reliability.

Thank you.

Marc Norman

Ellicott City

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Officials say a Maryland woman conspired with a neo-Nazi leader in Florida to plan an attack on Baltimore's power grid in an effort to further their racist mission

By Lea Skene and Eric Tucker | AP

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/woman-charged-with-plotting-to-disable-baltimore-power-grid/2023/02/06/99343b24-a642-11ed-b2a3-edb05ee0e313_story.html

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Howard-Citizen" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to howard-citizen+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/howard-citizen/32FC8668-5AD4-49FA-9383-21A08C6E4D9C%40verizon.net>.

Sayers, Margery

From: Liz <liz@firesidestone.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Electrification and the band of Natural Gas

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

Please listen to the reasonable people that do not want this band on the Natural Gas appliances and heating system.

Natural Gas is a clean burning fuel and it allows the poor and middle income people to heat their homes in the winter . Electric would only raise the cost to heat their homes and to cook their food .

If there is a power outage what are the people suppose to do freeze?

Please re consider what you are about to do to so many people in Howard County.

P.S. I have been a Howard County resident for 75 years please hear us.

Liz Brian

Sayers, Margery

From: Tom Gross <tomg@firesidestone.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Electrification and the band of natural gas

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

I personally heat my home and cook with gas and notice a significant drop in home heating costs during the winter compared to my electric air conditioning use during warmer months. Electrification policies would eventually eliminate the use of reliable energy sources such as natural gas and propane, and therefore take away my choice of appliances I use for cooking and heating my home. This is especially concerning on cold days without power. Today's electric heating technology alternatives, such as heat pumps, underperform on cold days and are not as reliable in a power outage. Bottom line, electrification policies will cost me more to heat my home and would take away reliable and affordable home heating options that I currently enjoy.

I ask that you please consider the negative impacts of electrification on home heating costs and our ability to safely and reliably keep our home warm in these uncertain times. Please oppose any efforts to ban certain energy sources.

Tom Gross

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Kaufman, Justin (HHT) <KaufmanJ@hearthnhome.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bill 5-2023

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

We vote **NO** for this bill!!

Justin Kaufman

Hearth Expert

Stove Dealer Business Partner
Harman, QuadraFire, Vermont Castings
DE, NJ, MD, PA, VA

.....
MAHPBA Government Affairs Director – Pennsylvania
.....



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F: 1-800-669-4349 | kaufmanj@hearthnhome.com
www.hearthnhome.com | www.fireplaces.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Benjamin Poole <benjamin.r.poole@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support 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 Howard County Council Members,

I am a resident of Howard County District 1, and I support passing CB5-2023, The [Clean New Buildings Climate Act](#). I also support strengthening amendments ([1-2 and 6-11](#) from council members Rigby and Walsh). I oppose amendments which weaken the bill ([3-5](#) from member Yungmann). I would like to see the bill pass on Feb 6 regardless of passage of strengthening amendments. It is important to start moving forward on this issue.

Sayers, Margery

From: William Billick <William.Billick.602062491@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:15 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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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,
William Billick
350 W Liberty St
Oakland, MD 21550