

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Neal Goturi <nealgoturi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 7:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of CB5 from the Maryland Sierra Club's Youth Leadership Council and HCPSS Student  
**Attachments:** Maryland Sierra Club Youth Leadership Council - CB5 Howard County Council Letter.pdf; County Council Bill.pdf

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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

I have been authorized on behalf of the Maryland Sierra Club's Youth Leadership Council and a HCPSS student, Debika Debnath, to share their letters in support of CB5 with you.

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

Best,  
Neal

Dear Howard County Council,

We are 7 climate conscious high school students, representing the Maryland Sierra Club's Youth Leadership Council. We recognize the importance of the intersection between energy and climate.

Councilchair Rigby introduced **CB5-2023**, a bill that would require the County Executive to determine the county building code changes needed to end the burning of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations. This report would be in advance of the next round of building code revisions; in the spring of 2024.

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

According to the County Greenhouse Gas inventory, 11% of the county's emissions come directly from burning methane gas or propane in furnaces and appliances in buildings. As our population grows, and new construction without electrification follows, that number is only going to go up. We must first stop the problem of gas infrastructure from becoming more pervasive before we tackle the problem of existing gas infrastructure. Furthermore the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 12.7% of current childhood asthma in the US is attributable to gas stove use; the Oxford International Journal of Epidemiology found that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma. Gas stoves are a health risk that children are particularly vulnerable to and near powerless to prevent.

Electrification allows for the phasing out of dangerous gas infrastructure and thus builds homes that are healthier and better suited for human life. Moreover, gas in Maryland is slated to become much more expensive over the coming years. The Maryland Office of People's Counsel estimates that the average BGE gas customer will experience a 57% bill increase over the next 12 years. Montgomery County has already voted to mandate that new construction must be electric, starting as soon as 2026. We urge Howard County to become leaders in electrification as well.

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

Sincerely,  
Maryland Sierra Club YLC

Hi, my name is Debbie Debnath and I am from Mount Hebron High School in Howard County, Maryland. I support the Electric Building bill that is to be passed. I believe this is important because I care about the future of my own family and I believe that if this is passed, then it can ensure that we are taking one more step closer to a cleaner and better future.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 4:03 PM  
**To:** cherylarney@gmail.com  
**Subject:** District 1 - CB5

**First Name:** Cheryl

**Last Name:** Arney

**Email:** [cherylarney@gmail.com](mailto:cherylarney@gmail.com)

**Street Address:** 4361 Wild Filly Ct.

**City:** Ellicott City

**Subject:** CB5

**Message:**

I saw that there were three new amendments submitted for CB5. I urge the Council to decide that the amendments are not "substantive", so that a vote on the amended bill can be held tomorrow night (March 6.) Your amendment and Chair Rigby's amendment appear to be technical in nature, which should not hold up the vote. Thank you for being careful to make this bill's wording precise, with no "loose ends" left that might be subject to different interpretations. That's the sign of a good legislator! Council Member Jung's proposed amendment also does not appear to meet the definition of "substantive". So, again, I urge you to hold a vote on the amended bill after the new amendments have been discussed and voted upon.

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**From:** Cynthia Williams <cawilliams66@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:26 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB5-2023, without weakening amendments or substantive changes

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

Please support the above.

Cynthia Williams  
15754 Union Chapel Rd., Woodbine  
District 5

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Paul Verchinski <verchinski@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB5-2023

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While i expect this bill to pass, it is a hollow bill since it only requires that a Report be done by the County Executive. There are no requirements or timelines for implementation. I ask that this bill be amended to reflect implementation dates.

Support with Amendment

Paul Verchinski  
5475 Sleeping Dog Lane  
Columbia

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Cliff Strawitch <strawitch@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 1:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please support the passage 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 Council member,

Please support the passage of CB5-2023. In order to meet President Biden's goal of achieving a 50% reduction in Greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 as compared to 2005 levels, electrification of buildings is an important step. Let's make Howard County a leader in the move to all electric for our homes by requiring new buildings be 100% electric.

Thanks you!

Cliff Strawitch  
3927 White Rose Way  
Ellicott City, MD 21042