



HB236 – Energy Conserving Standards (Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2021)

Testimony before Health & Government Operations Committee

January 21, 2020

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB236**, to increase energy efficiency in State buildings while protecting a bio-diverse bird population. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

This bill will require state of Maryland, for any buildings constructed, renovated or acquired, to apply more stringent energy efficient standards, principally by utilizing bird-safe design. HB236 follows Howard County CB11-2020, which passed in 2020 and was signed into law by the County Executive. It also follows other states like New York, which has passed similar legislation with much success. Besides the obvious benefits of building more energy efficient structures and the associated positive effects to our contribution to climate change, this bill will reduce bird collisions with buildings, improve biodiversity, and support eco-tourism in the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Richard Deutschmann
Columbia, MD 21045