



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SB81 Support

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

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SB 81 Building Energy Performance Standards Act of 2022

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The City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of Senate Bill 81, and urges favorable consideration.

This bill would grant authority to county governments to enforce provisions of locally enacted building energy performance standards. The ability to ensure that these standards are implemented will strengthen and speed adoption of more efficient building energy use, one of the greatest areas of energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) production. This will in turn contribute greatly to meeting vital GHG emissions reduction goals at the state and local level.

Throughout Maryland, and in Montgomery County, we can see for ourselves that our climate is dramatically and rapidly changing with devastating consequences, and that greenhouse gas emissions must be dramatically reduced in the very short term to address this. We must accelerate and expand efforts on the part of all levels of government, using all the policy tools at our disposal, to reduce GHG emissions. There's no time to waste.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our many local policies and actions. In 2019 the City declared a climate emergency and set a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2035. In 2020 the City adopted a Climate Emergency Response Framework to move aggressively to implement that goal. It focuses on buildings and transportation, the two areas of greatest GHG emissions in our community, and embraces building energy performance standards at the county and municipal level as one critical tool. The City is also committed to action through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of this bill, and encourages a favorable vote.