

January 31, 2024

Support - SB 258 - Department of General Services - State Buildings and Facilities - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

The undersigned groups support SB 258 - Department of General Services - State Buildings and Facilities - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions and thank the Department of General Services for its commitment to state climate goals.

SB 258 codifies an [Executive Order](#) issued last summer that enumerated several initiatives state buildings would take to monitor and improve efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Fuel use in buildings accounts for about [16%](#) of emissions in Maryland, the third largest sector. When the state takes direct action to increase efficiency and reduce emissions, it is demonstrating critical leadership in reaching our emissions reductions targets, the most ambitious short term GHG emissions reductions targets in the nation.

This bill will adjust the State's goals for reducing energy consumption in State buildings and includes a 20% reduction in average energy consumption by 2031, up from the previous 10% along with energy audits for state buildings. Benefits of energy efficiency include healthier indoor environments, and supporting the transition to a clean energy economy. The bill also directs the Maryland Green Building Council to update the High-Performance Green Building Program, ensuring alignment with the State's overarching objective of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

With the passage of SB 258, government buildings will be built and operate in a way that is aligned with reaching the state's net zero 2045 goal.

We urge a favorable report on SB 258.

Signed,

Maryland League of Conservation Voters
350MoCo
AIA Maryland
Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Baltimore Jewish Council
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry
Center for Progressive Reform
Ceres
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Maryland Ornithological Society
Safe Skies Maryland
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Sustainable Earth Eating
Third Act Maryland
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland