

**Testimony in Support of Bill 13-22
Comprehensive Building Decarbonization
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I am a retired NOAA climate scientist, Board Chair at Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Steering Committee member at 350 Montgomery County. I write this as my strong endorsement of the Comprehensive Building Decarbonization Bill, sponsored by Councilmember Hans Riemer and endorsed by County Executive Marc Elrich.

As heat waves sweep across our nation and the Northern Hemisphere this summer, it's difficult not to conclude that the effects of climate change are upon us. The County Council recognized this nearly five years ago with their Climate Emergency resolution. Yet concrete action has been desperately hard to find. The short version of climate action is this: *We have to stop burning stuff*. No, this can't happen overnight, but we need to begin. At a minimum, as we build new structures, we cannot lock in carbon emissions for decades into the future. This is what Bill 13-22 is designed to avoid.

I bring a personal experience to this issue. We installed a new heat pump and electric hot water heater in our house in May, and our rooftop solar installation came online in January. Yesterday, on one of the hottest days of the year, we still made more electricity than we used, while keeping the house quite pleasant. This can be done, and done cost-effectively, especially for new construction.

I'll submit one more item of my experience. I've ridden my bicycle through the major oil and gas fields in North America, including the Permian Basin in Texas and the Bakken field in North Dakota. [I wouldn't recommend it.] Never out of sight are the flames from oil well flaring, scenes reminiscent of Mordor. This is where our gas is coming from. A t-shirt seen more than once says, "God Give Me One More Oil Boom. I Promise I Won't Blow It This Time." It reminds me of the attitude of our national oil and local gas companies: They know their days are numbered, but they just want to ride out one more boom to get them to retirement. Hence the pleading for just one more study, then another, before action. But we just don't have that kind of time.

Please support this bill and begin to make good on the promises that the Council made five years ago.