



**PRINCE GEORGE'S**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
EST. 1924

**PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce ("PGCOC") is a non-profit alliance of over 600 businesses, representing over a quarter of a million employees, making it one of the largest chambers in the state of Maryland and one of the largest chambers in the Washington Metropolitan region.

PGCOC supports a sensible solution to address climate change. But we have a duty to support our member businesses to help local government develop and implement policies that improve the business environment.

Montgomery County Bill #13-22, Comprehensive Decarbonization in New Construction, prohibits natural gas use in new buildings, and buildings undergoing significant renovations.

PGCOC opposes Bill 13-22 because it will have an adverse impact to businesses not only those operating exclusively in Montgomery County. Businesses in Prince George's County and elsewhere will experience an increase in operating costs particularly with respect to their utility bills. According to the gas utility companies, there is no rate difference or distinction between rates in Frederick, Howard, Baltimore County, Prince George's, Montgomery, Calvert, Carroll, St. Mary's, or Charles Counties. When a large customer base is removed from the gas market, as this bill does, there are stranded costs. Thus, those stranded gas cost will shift to those customers remaining in the service territory.

Compounding this financial burden, this bill will require unprecedented investment in the grid distribution system by the electric utility companies. Electric utility companies will recover those infrastructure costs in rates paid by taxpayers, residential customers—and businesses!

PGCOC cautions against imposing new mandates that directly impact businesses, especially amid a global pandemic. In a time of high inflation, we do not believe this policy is prudent. If large companies experience financial setbacks during the pandemic, then imagine how long it will take small businesses to recover after the pandemic has ended. Without safeguards in place, enacting this measure will only exacerbate conditions for small to mid-sized businesses operating within the State. Once again, we oppose any legislation that threatens the survival of businesses whether in Prince George's County, Montgomery County or elsewhere in Maryland.

PGCOC, like many Chambers across the state, have worked diligently to improve the business environment in the Maryland. With policies like Bill 13-22, those businesses considering opening their doors in Prince George's County and surrounding counties will reconsider operating in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Donna C. Graves  
Interim President & CEO