



**Bill 13-22 Buildings – Comprehensive Building Decarbonization  
Montgomery County Council  
July 29, 2022**

**Background:** Bill 13-22 would require the Montgomery County Executive to develop electrification standards for future construction and other buildings in the County by 2024.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Association echoes the concerns expressed by the business community regarding the impact that a County-wide transition away from non-electric energy sources could have on energy costs and business operations in Montgomery County. As the State moves forward with its own actions to reduce emissions, we would encourage local jurisdictions to unite under statewide standards in order to reduce confusion for businesses and to streamline efforts to develop alternative energy sources.

It is our understanding that the sponsor is in the process of developing amendments to make clear that restaurants and restaurants with drive-through windows fall under the exemption for commercial kitchens, and it is our hope that all food service businesses will be included. Should the Council choose to move forward with setting local standards for decarbonization, we would ask that the exemption for commercial kitchens be clarified to ensure that it includes all food service locations that provide made-to-order food, such as convenience stores that provide hot meals to order.

Ultimately, we would urge the Council to consider the overall impact that the proposal could have on business operations in Montgomery County, and we look forward to participating in the regulation process if the bill passes. Thank you for your consideration.