



July 25, 2022

The Honorable Gabe Albornoz
Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Albornoz:

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) opposes Bill 13-22, *Comprehensive Building Decarbonization*. This proposed legislation would require all-electric building standards for new construction, major renovations, and additions to be fully in effect by January 1, 2024, less than 18 months from consideration of this proposal.

To be clear, MCCC does not oppose the implementation of clean energy policy solutions. Climate change is a serious global threat to our national security, economy, and our quality of life. However, MCCC urges the County to first coordinate its plans with both state and national efforts as we are part of a regional and national economy.

With awareness of the regional and national scope and complexity of any effective energy and climate policy, the Maryland General Assembly required further study of the impact of proposed solutions when it passed SB 528 – *Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022*. For that reason, the legislation requires a study by the Public Service Commission to determine whether there is adequate energy infrastructure in place now, or to identify the need for additional infrastructure, to support the recommendations.

MCCC agrees that the results of a study, and the opportunity for public hearings and comment, are essential for effective energy policy to move forward. For this reason, MCCC recommends that Montgomery County postpone adopting specific bans as included in Bill 13-22 until it has the benefit of the state's findings and holds hearings to gather testimony on the recommendations.

As always, MCCC looks forward to working with Montgomery County on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Godwin".

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin
President & CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members, Montgomery County Council