



**Correspondence to Montgomery County Council
April 19, 2022**

Members of the Montgomery County Council –

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) is writing to you today regarding Bill 16-21 -- *Environmental Sustainability - Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards – Amendments*, which is scheduled for a vote on April 19.

MCCC asks the County Council to follow the State’s standards set forth in SB 528 -- *Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022* for the size of covered buildings that fall under County energy performance standards. We further urge the County Council to provide the same exemptions locally as set forth at the State level.

Specifically, MCCC asks for the alignment of Bill 16-21 with the standards set forth in SB 528 by implementing the following amendments:

1) make definitions of covered buildings the same (35,000+ square feet); in the local bill, this would require changes to the following sections:

- p.4 line 62 substitute 35,000 for 25,000 (re: County-owned buildings)
- p.5 line 99 substitute 35,000 for 25,000 (re: group 3 covered buildings)
- p.6 line 108 substitute 35,000 for 25,000 (re: group 5 covered buildings)
- p.9 line 191 substitute 35,000 for 25,000
- p.12 line 267 substitute 35,000 for 25,000
- p.13 line 301 substitute 35,000 for 25,000

2) provide same exemptions locally as the state by adding to:

- p.4 lines 67-71 “a building designated as a historic property under federal, state or local law; a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school building;”

Thank you for considering these requests and if there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Brian Levine
Vice President of Government Affairs
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce