



February 26, 2021

Montgomery County, Maryland Government
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Montgomery County Climate Action Plan

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Mid Atlantic Propane Gas Association and the 100 businesses that we represent, we are writing to express our opposition to proposed actions B-1 and B-2 (Pages 103-104). These actions would require the removal of propane-fueled appliances, and replacement with electric products when a building or home is sold. We oppose these actions for the following reasons:

- 1) They restrict energy choice. These actions represent the first step toward eliminating the use of propane gas, and thereby abandoning the safe, modern, and reliable energy system that delivers it.
- 2) They threaten energy reliability and resilience. The region's electricity grid is currently at risk of not having enough available when it's needed the most. That means there is a significantly heightened potential for brownouts and blackouts, especially during the coldest days of the year. This is the current situation, without added loads from policies that mandate aggressive electrification of end uses. A diverse energy supply makes for a resilient energy system. A resilient system is one that can bounce back more quickly after a storm or other natural disaster; one that can continue to provide life-saving warmth even when the power is out.
- 3) They will increase energy costs for county residents. The average unit of electricity is more costly than the same unit of energy delivered via propane gas. This will result in additional energy costs for consumers and could have the greatest impact on those least able to shoulder the burden.

We support the transition to a clean economy, and energy policies that move us in that direction while retaining affordability, sustaining good careers, maintaining energy choice and diversity, and preserving energy reliability and resilience. We ask that you not adopt actions B-1 and B-2.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Honeycutt
President