



**Comments of Susy Jones, High Performance Buildings Program Manager
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)
To the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Regarding Senate Bill 222:
High Performance Buildings Act - Applicability to Recipients of State Aid
February 22, 2012**

Dear Chairman Kasemeyer and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)¹, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill 222, the High Performance Buildings Act - Applicability to Recipients of State Aid.

NEEP's High Performance Buildings Project promotes operational energy savings in retrofit and new buildings in the Northeast region of the U.S. Our vision is that the work done today on High Performance Buildings will pave the way for the development of Net Zero Energy Buildings - buildings that consume no more energy than they produce - on a broader scale throughout the region, while providing immediate cost savings to the state, cities and towns in the form of lower energy bills and higher occupant comfort and productivity.

NEEP supports the extension of Maryland's High Performance Building Act to capital projects that are funded solely or in part by a grant from the state. Doing so will help Maryland save valuable taxpayer dollars, conserve energy, and increase the health and productivity of its residents. A strong high performance building policy also demonstrates Maryland's environmental leadership, helping to raise public awareness of the benefits of clean energy technologies and practices.

As Maryland moves forward, NEEP encourages the state to continue to advance energy efficiency in its public buildings, which can increase the value of buildings and substantially reduce operating costs, easing long-term costs to taxpayers.

Once again, we thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony and look forward to working with you and providing any assistance we can to advance high performance buildings in Maryland.

Sincerely,

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¹ [NEEP](http://www.neep.org) is a regional non-profit organization founded in 1996 whose mission is to promote the efficient use of energy in homes, buildings, and industry throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic through regionally coordinated programs and policies that increase the use of energy efficient products, services and practices, and help achieve a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy system. The comments are presented by NEEP staff and don't necessarily reflect the views of NEEP's Board, sponsors or partners.