

Interagency Commission on School Construction
200 West Baltimore Street
Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Interagency Commission on School Construction:

Thank you for considering our testimony concerning the updates to COMAR 14.39.02.07. Climate Parents is a campaign to reduce climate change-causing pollution in our schools, and our group is active in Prince George's County. In particular, we recently worked directly with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) technical staff, elected officials, and other advocates to develop a Climate Change Action Plan for PGCPS as part of a focus work group created by the Board of Education.

Given our focus on Prince George's County the changes being proposed to allow for LEAs that received costs shares of 96% or more to take advantage of the full 5% adder for net-zero schools would not affect PGCPS, but we do believe that this is the right thing to do so that all schools in Maryland have access to net-zero school funding and are supportive of the proposal.

We did want to take this moment though and also point out the need to update the life cycle cost estimator to ensure that LEAs are factoring in access to these funds in their decision making. We also wanted to call on the IAC to work with DGS to update the DGS Procedure Manual to include these funds and other related programs in the required decision making process for LEAs to evaluate the total cost of ownership of school designs. It is especially important given the higher more volatile energy prices that we face in Maryland that our LEAs are making the most economical and most sustainable decisions when it comes to building construction

We appreciate your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please message climateparentsPGMD@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Jakuta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph Jakuta
Lead Volunteer
Climate Parents of Prince George's