



F R O M	Name & Title	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Health Department 1001 E. Fayette St.		
	Subject	Council Bill 10-0470 Energy Tax - Rates		

To: President and Members
of The City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

April 12, 2010

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to City Council Bill 10-0470- Energy Tax Rates. This bill modifies the basic rate of the energy tax and curtails the tax reduction for certain users. It requires residential energy users, subject to residential schedules on file with the Public Service Commission of Maryland and direct users of energy in manufacturing, assembling, processing, or refining operations that are exempt from the Maryland State Retail Sales and Use Tax, to pay a tax based on their energy consumption. Nonprofit hospitals, religious, charitable, or educational institutions or organizations, or any in-patient medical care or nursing facility licensed by the State or City Health Departments, will also be subject to the phased-on version of the energy tax for energy used in carrying on their work.

BCHD's primary mission is to promote a healthy Baltimore City by advocating, leading, and providing services of the highest quality in order to promote and protect the health of the residents of Baltimore. In the current economic downturn, funding for public health services has decreased. The continued loss of city, state, federal, and private institution dollars will potentially impact the agency's ability to serve its public health function. This fee would increase City revenues, at a time when the city is facing a budget deficit that requires significant cuts in funding for a variety of core City services. Therefore, any increased funding measures are supported, and we encourage passage of this bill.

BHCD encourages passage of Council Bill 10-0470, and will be participating in the hearing process to provide any public health data that might be necessary in making an informed decision.

CC: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Christopher Thomascutty, Deputy Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Rachel Indek, Legislative Director, Department of Health

