



## **SB0256 - Maryland Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund**

**Date: February 1, 2022**

**Committee: Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

**Victoria Venable, Maryland Director**

**Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report from the committee on **SB0256 - Maryland Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund**.

The CCAN Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots organization dedicated to climate action in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. We believe that the clean energy revolution provides opportunities to not only mitigate climate change but also to build resilience to its impacts. Microgrids and resiliency hubs are crucial tools in climate adaptation and SB0256 will support their use and expansion in Maryland.

Microgrids are localized grids that can disconnect from the traditional grid to operate autonomously. During outage events, whether caused by severe weather, equipment failures, or even cyberattacks, microgrids can serve as a reliable source of power to the community. Maryland has used microgrids and solar plus energy storage systems to create Resiliency Hubs that provide emergency energy to communities during periods of outage. SB0256 will support this work by:

- Expanding funding through the establishment of the Resiliency Hub Grant Program in the Maryland Energy Administration.
- Targeting microgrid development and distributed energy resource ownership to low and moderate-income communities
- Coordinating emergency preparedness funding and federal funding

We believe that SB0256 will greatly improve our community resilience in the face of climate stressors. We thank the sponsor for supporting this work and the committee for its consideration of SB0256. For all the reasons stated above, we urge a favorable vote from the committee.

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