



**HB310**  
**Environment and Energy –**  
**Investment in Communities With Low- to Moderate-Income Households**  
**Testimony before House Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**Hearing Feb. 15, 2024**  
**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chairman Barve and committee members, my name is Elizabeth Fixsen, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition with 30,000+ members. We are providing written testimony today in support of HB310. We thank Del. Rosenberg for sponsoring this bill.

With respect to investment in programs generally related to the environment and energy, this bill will require the Department of the Environment to develop certain policies and recommendations designating at least 40% of overall spending to benefit communities with low- to moderate-income households, starting with fiscal year 2025. It will also require the Department to conduct public information-gathering sessions in different areas of the State to solicit input.

Currently, Marylanders are facing an epidemic of electricity shut-offs, as costs of heating fuels have skyrocketed.<sup>1</sup> Low-income households are particularly impacted by high energy costs –and yet they have fewer resources for achieving greater energy efficiency in their homes. This bill will allocate more spending to help such households and communities achieve greater energy efficiency, thus helping to combat climate change.

As our planet is facing catastrophic effects from climate change, it is imperative that state and local governments, as well as individuals, take every possible action to achieve energy efficiency and thus reduce consumption of carbon-dioxide emitting fossil fuels. Maryland is leading the way with many state and local government initiatives to promote renewable energy, and HB310 is an important one.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Elizabeth Fixsen  
Savage, MD

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-bz-maryland-utility-disconnections-grow-20230131-xpueyaeowjaoho7xt7tpqrtanq-story.html>