



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SB0169 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

January 16, 2024

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

My name is Carlos Orbe. I am the Communications and Public Affairs Specialist for Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU). I am writing on behalf of Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), a statewide network of organizations, businesses, and individuals dedicated to supporting Latino and immigrant communities in Maryland. MLU's mission revolves around addressing the disparities and inequities faced by Latino and immigrant communities, finding solutions, and taking coordinated action to make a positive impact.

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund Bill. We believe that this bill is a significant step towards fostering sustainable energy practices within nonprofit organizations in Maryland, which will have a far-reaching impact on our environment, economy, and community well-being.

The Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program aims to provide vital financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems in the State. This program aligns perfectly with our mission as it not only promotes clean energy practices but also empowers nonprofit organizations to make a positive impact on the environment.

By supporting this bill, we envision several key benefits for our community:

Environmental Impact: Transitioning to renewable energy sources will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment for all Maryland residents.

Economic Growth: This program will create opportunities for small businesses that provide green and renewable energy services, potentially leading to job creation and economic growth within our community.

Community Empowerment: Nonprofit organizations will have the resources they need to invest in sustainable energy systems, allowing them to redirect funds towards their core missions and better serve the community.

Inclusivity: Prioritizing applicants with an annual budget of \$1.0 million or less ensures that smaller nonprofits, including those serving underrepresented communities, can access these benefits.

We are committed to supporting the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund Bill and encourage your continued efforts to pass this legislation. By doing so, we can collectively contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future for all Maryland residents. Thank you for your dedication to our community and your support for this crucial initiative. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact that this bill will have on our state.

Respectfully,

Carlos Orbe Jr.

Carlos Alberto Orbe, Jr.