MARYLAND
LEGISLATIVE
COALITION

TESTIMONY FOR HB0130
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES - STATE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES – ENERGY CONSERVATION AND GREEHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Bill Sponsor: Chair, Environment and Transportation
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0130 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill, if enacted, would provide enabling legislation to put state-owned facilities on the path to achieving the state's statutory greenhouse gas reduction requirements. It will do several things –

- Update the High-Performance Green Building Program to align with the state's goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas requirements by 2045
- Identify the state-owned buildings that are potential candidates for energy savings performance contracts and require departments to provide on-site support for achieving the energy savings performance contracts
- Audit 2M square feet of state-owned facilities and include best practices and low-cost measures for reducing greenhouse gases and increasing energy efficiency and require each department that occupies space in the audited facilities to implement the measures described in the audit

There are other provisions which are more forward-looking, which require departments to use the provisions of the state's energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals whenever they lease new space.

Our members believe that it is vitally important to take serious steps to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions, and we are very supportive of this legislation. It is an important step towards leaving a better world for our children.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.