



TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** HB139

Landlord and Tenant - Office of Home Energy Programs - Financial Assistance
Environment and Transportation
January 30, 2024

Maryland Energy Advocates Coalition is in strong support of HB139 that gives tenants the ability to access Office of Home Energy Program energy assistance if their utility charges are included in their rent. Our coalition's goal is through advocacy, reporting and education to ensure that low-income family utility bills are affordable.

Delegate Charkoudian's bill is tactical and practical.

This bill closes a little-known gap in the OHEP system and would allow tenants who pay their home energy utility bill to their landlord, to access energy assistance when their household is income-eligible. This group of tenants pays in to fund EUSP, but cannot access any of the grants because the utility bill is in the landlord's name.

Thank you for supporting HB139 and voting it out of Committee.