



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0145
GREEN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS LOAN PROGRAM AND FUND**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Boafo

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0145 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.

It is imperative that all businesses and individuals switch to using clean, renewable energy as soon as possible to reduce our fossil fuel footprint. Our future, and our children's future is riding on it. However, this will be an expensive proposition. Maryland must work hard to ensure that funding is available for those least able to afford the transition. Nonprofit organizations generally struggle to affording the outlay to switch to clean energy, so this bill creates an interest-free revolving loan fund to help them afford to make the switch. The bill prioritizes nonprofits with budgets of less than \$1M and requires a 10% match.

Our members understand that the state is working hard to balance the budget, but we must create the framework to get rid of fossil fuels. It is costing the state a great deal of money to mitigate the damage from climate change, and that amount is growing. The prudent course is to fund the transition to clean energy and encourage everyone to make the switch.

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