

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Delegate C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support for House Bill 145 – Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

On behalf of Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 145 (HB0145), “Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund.” This important legislation provides a no-interest loan program to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems, offering both financial and environmental benefits that are critical for empowering Maryland’s Latino and immigrant communities.

Nonprofit organizations often serve as lifelines for under-resourced communities, including Maryland’s 12.6% Latino population. Many of these nonprofits operate on limited budgets, which restrict their ability to implement energy-efficient solutions that could reduce operational costs. By enabling access to no-interest loans for renewable energy projects, HB0145 ensures these organizations can lower energy expenses and reinvest those savings into vital community programs, such as health equity initiatives, education support, and workforce training.

Furthermore, this bill advances Maryland’s environmental and climate action goals by promoting clean energy adoption among nonprofits. Latino and immigrant communities often reside in areas disproportionately affected by environmental hazards, including poor air quality and pollution. The adoption of renewable energy systems through HB0145 will not only mitigate environmental inequities but also contribute to healthier, more sustainable communities across the state.

At MLU, we understand the transformative impact of programs that empower nonprofits to better serve their communities. Through our advocacy efforts, we have witnessed the power of collaborative solutions that address financial barriers while fostering environmental justice. HB0145 represents a critical opportunity to expand these efforts statewide, enabling nonprofits to lead the charge toward equitable and sustainable growth.

We strongly urge the members of the Economic Matters Committee to issue a favorable report on HB0145 and advance this vital legislation. This bill represents a bold step toward creating a Maryland where every community has the tools to thrive—economically, environmentally, and socially.

Sincerely,
Carlos Orbe, Jr.

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