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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0145- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0145, Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

If Maryland is to meet its clean, renewable energy goals, this is a bill that moves us in that direction. Clean energy has proven itself to be a powerful driver of economic development in Maryland, including job creation. Using more renewable energy will give Maryland cleaner air and water, helping to protect our residents from the harm of fossil fuel pollution. That's why a broad and diverse coalition of environmentalists, public health officials, business leaders, labor leaders, faith leaders, academics, low-income advocates, and social justice advocates has come together to call on Maryland's leaders to significantly expand the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) policy.¹

The intent of this bill is towards establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems. It will further assist the state in establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Fund. It hopes to accomplish that by altering the uses of the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund. It also authorizes and directs the Governor to include \$5,000,000 in the fiscal year 2027 budget for the Fund.

In the face of a Federal Government in which commitment to clean energy and environmental protection is likely to be severely restricted or abandoned it is on Maryland to do what we can in our state to continue to move on our climate and energy goals. We should view this as an investment, not an expense, in reaching the desired future.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0145.

¹ <https://ccanactionfund.org/maryland/double-wind-solar/#:~:text=In%202017%2C%20the%20Maryland%20General,2030%20and%20100%25%20by%202040.>