



**Testimony on: HB0145 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund**

**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing**

**Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: January 23, 2025**

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in strong support of HB0145, the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund. The Maryland Legislative Climate Justice Wing is a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations whose members urge you to vote favorably on HB0145.

This bill represents a critical step in helping Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals while empowering our nonprofit community to be leaders in sustainability. As you know, Maryland has set a target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 under the Climate Solutions Now Act. Achieving this will require bold, innovative solutions and broad-based participation. HB0145 provides a unique opportunity to engage nonprofit organizations—cornerstones of our communities—in this effort.

Nonprofit organizations serve as vital connectors, addressing the needs of our most vulnerable populations and fostering local engagement. Yet, many nonprofits lack the resources to adopt renewable energy technologies or implement energy efficiency measures. By establishing a no-interest loan program, this bill removes financial barriers, enabling nonprofits to access and install clean energy systems. This will reduce their operational costs, freeing up resources to serve Marylanders even more effectively.

The economic benefits of this legislation are equally compelling. Transitioning to green energy will stimulate job creation across sectors, including manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of renewable energy systems. Local contractors, electricians, and other skilled workers stand to benefit, further strengthening Maryland's economy.

Moreover, by investing in green energy for nonprofits, HB0145 sends a powerful message that sustainability is achievable and practical for organizations of all sizes. This program will inspire more Marylanders—businesses, schools, and communities—to adopt climate-friendly practices, amplifying the bill's impact.

Finally, the bill's emphasis on utilizing the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and proposing dedicated funding in FY 2027 underscores a prudent and forward-looking approach to sustainable growth. This initiative not only supports our environmental objectives but also ensures a more equitable energy transition, helping nonprofits lower their energy costs while contributing to a cleaner, healthier Maryland.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report on HB0145 so we can empower Maryland's nonprofits to lead the charge toward a sustainable future, strengthen our economy, and achieve the ambitious climate goals that will protect our state for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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