



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 853**

Local Government – Clean Energy Loan Programs – Grid Resilience Projects

**DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2020**

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

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**The Chesapeake Bay Foundation OPPOSES HB 853.** This bill would allow grid resiliency projects to compete with energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for the Clean Energy Loan Program.

The Clean Energy Loan Program was established to provide loans to commercial and residential property owners, including low-income residential property owners, to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These loans contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases and provide significant cost savings back to the recipients.

HB 853 includes no definition of “grid resilience projects,” however, the Maryland Energy Administration indicates that grid resilience projects are those that provide electricity for the system owner during electric outages; limit economic and productivity losses for residents, businesses, and the State; and reduce the number of customers without access to electricity after natural disasters.

While resiliency is an important public safety concern, use of the Clean Energy Loan Program to fund resiliency work threatens to dilute the purpose of the Program, slowing progress on greenhouse gas reductions, and reducing options for low-income property owners to finance energy efficiency projects and renewable energy projects.

**For these reasons, CBF urges an UNFAVORABLE report on HB 853 from the House Economic Matters Committee.** If you have any questions, please contact Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist at 443.482.2168 or [dmyers@cbf.org](mailto:dmyers@cbf.org)

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.