

**To:**  
**Maryland House Economic Matters Committee**

**3/6/2020**

**Re: HB 1426**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Reuven Walder. I am an energy efficiency expert, Home Performance professional, Healthy Home specialist and co-founded ecobeco, a Maryland based energy efficiency company. I have since launched a consulting firm where I support companies and organizations who work in the energy efficiency and healthy home improvement sector by providing them with the institutional, financial and technical know-how needed for today's new energy economy. I am also on the board of the Maryland Building Performance Association and serve as the Board Chair of One Montgomery Green.

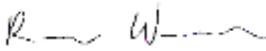
I am writing to request your support of HB 1426 for the appropriation of funds to the Maryland Clean Energy Center's efforts to increase clean energy and advance energy technology innovation in Maryland.

Through ecobeco, my teams conducted over five thousand energy audits of which I personally did 750 myself. I subsequently oversaw more than 1,000 residential energy retrofit projects to improve efficiency, comfort and indoor air quality. For some of those customers, an energy project would not have been possible without the MCEC's low cost financing program, the Maryland Home Energy Loan Program (MHELP). In fact, over four thousand customers throughout Maryland, who were not willing or able to proceed with such a project, were able to get the job done thanks to MCEC.

At a time when our homes and buildings are getting older and need more repairs just to maintain their operation, we need an organization like MCEC to provide better access to reduce our state's carbon footprint while making those needed repairs. MCEC's energy innovation technology accelerator at University of Maryland is a great example. We need to continue programs like this which think of new ways to address our issues while also continuing to provide the resources for proven solutions that work.

It is our responsibility to invest in our future by reducing our impact on natural systems and the continued threat of increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Both commercial and residential energy businesses understand that they need to adapt to the changing climate and unpredictable weather by reshaping their services to better respond to the needs of Maryland's property owners. MCEC's work is an important part of that solution.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1426.



Reuven Walder  
Pathways Consulting  
> Sustainability  
> Residential and Commercial Energy  
> Sales Support  
(301) 802-7038  
[rwalder@gmail.com](mailto:rwalder@gmail.com)