



**Larry Hogan, Governor**  
**Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor**  
**Mary Beth Tung, Director**

**TO:** House Environment and Transportation  
**FROM:** Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA  
**SUBJECT:** HB 1490 Clean Buildings Jobs Act of 2020  
**DATE:** March 04, 2020

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**MEA POSITION: Letter of Information**

The proposed legislation will divert dwindling Strategic Energy Investment Fund (“SEIF”) resources from critical energy programs. The proposed legislation requires the Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) to finance programs, to an unspecified amount, “in order to meet the laudable but challenging goal of reducing large commercial buildings’ greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions by 80% by 2050. This, and a number of other bills proposed this session, will divert dollars from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“RGGI”) funded SEIF programs, such as low-to-moderate income weatherization assistance programs, solar installation assistance programs, and electric vehicle incentive programs to a degree that will likely require MEA to discontinue some such programs and reducing funding to non-impactful levels for others.

MEA shares the goal of reducing the GHG footprint of large commercial buildings in Maryland and supports job creation. However, MEA believes that existing SEIF-funded commercial, industrial, and agricultural grant programs, the Jane E. Lawton conservation loan program, and the commercial clean energy grant program (all with established RGGI funding mechanisms) in conjunction with EmPower Maryland are the best avenue for reducing such GHG emissions. MEA is also committed to contributing a significant portion of SEIF resources to workforce development programs particularly for renewable energy jobs.

MEA believes that the proposed legislation may impede MEA’s mission to: “promote affordable, reliable and cleaner energy for the benefit of all Marylanders”, due to the burdens it places on a diminishing and variable funding source, SEIF. MEA requests you take this information under advisement when considering how to report on HB1490.