



**SB418– Maryland Energy Administration –  
Energy and Water Efficiency Standards – Alterations  
Testimony before Senate Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs  
Hearing Feb. 10, 2021  
Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Fixsen, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in support of SB418, to make alterations in energy and water efficiency standards for certain products sold in the state of Maryland. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

According to EmPower Maryland, energy efficiency is among the least expensive ways to meet the growing electricity demands of the state. This finding is repeatedly affirmed by national studies. The EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008 established a goal to reduce per capita electricity usage and peak demand 15 percent by 2015. The 2015 goals were met statewide.

In 2017, the EmPOWER statute was updated to establish a new goal structure and cost-effectiveness requirements for the 2018-2020 and 2021-2023 program cycles. The new goal is an annual energy savings goal of 2% of gross energy sales. **SB418** will move our state towards greater energy efficiency, including application of Energy Star standards, for a range of products that use electricity.

Furthermore, the bill will promote water use efficiency. According to EnergyStar.gov, using water-saving techniques diverts less water from our rivers, bays, and estuaries, which helps keep the environment healthy. It can also reduce water and wastewater treatment costs and the amount of energy used to treat, pump, and heat water. This lowers energy demand, which helps prevent air pollution. As our population continues to grow, demands on precious water resources increase. There are many opportunities to use household water more efficiently, saving users money without reducing services.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Elizabeth Fixsen  
Savage, MD

*Sources Cited:*

EmPower Maryland. Maryland Public Service Commission.

<https://www.psc.state.md.us/electricity/empower-maryland/>

EmPower Maryland Fact Sheet. Maryland Public Service Commission

[https://www.psc.state.md.us/electricity/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/EmPOWER\\_2019-Data.pdf](https://www.psc.state.md.us/electricity/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/EmPOWER_2019-Data.pdf)

Saving Water Helps Protect Our Nation's Water Supplies. Energy Star.

[https://www.energystar.gov/products/saving\\_water\\_helps\\_protect\\_our\\_nations\\_water\\_supplies](https://www.energystar.gov/products/saving_water_helps_protect_our_nations_water_supplies)