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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

January 6, 2021

Chair Anne R. Kaiser
Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: FAVORABLE – HB 0074 – Income Tax – Credit for Energy Efficiency Upgrades – Passive Houses

Dear Chair Kaiser and Committee Members:

I write today in support of House Bill 0074 – Income Tax – Credit for Energy Efficiency Upgrades – Passive Houses. Recognizing that energy efficiency is one of the least expensive ways to meet electricity demands for consumers, the Maryland General Assembly passed the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act in 2008. This Act established the EmPOWER Maryland Program and the State goal of reducing electricity consumption and peak demand. The General Assembly passed legislation 2017 that updated Maryland's energy efficiency goal and extended the EmPOWER Maryland Program through 2023.

The Maryland Public Service Commission oversees implementation of the EmPOWER Maryland Program by the participating utilities in Maryland. Through the end of 2019, EmPOWER has saved 10,670,600 MWh and 2,571 MW of peak demand and generated \$1.53 in benefits to Marylanders for every \$1.00 invested in the programs. This is equivalent to reducing 7.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

The EmPOWER Maryland experience shows that weatherization can achieve significant energy savings in a residential property. Therefore, the energy efficiency upgrades and Passive House Standard included in HB0074 can help customers further reduce their energy usage, control their utility bills, and add value and comfort to their homes. By offering a tax credit to customers for meeting Passive House Standards, the State will further its objectives established under the EmPOWER Maryland Act and encourage customers to make energy efficiency upgrades.

For these reasons, I support House Bill 0074 and urge a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration of this information. Please contact Lisa Smith, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-336-6288 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason M. Stanek".

Jason M. Stanek, Chairman

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER • 6 ST. PAUL STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-6806

410-767-8000

Toll Free: 1-800-492-0474

FAX: 410-333-6495

MDRS: 1-800-735-2258 (TTY/Voice)

Website: www.psc.state.md.us