

## OFFICERS

RABBI ANDREW BUSCH

President

ELIZABETH GREEN

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

THE HON. CHAYA FRIEDMAN

BENJAMIN ROSENBERG

RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ

MELANIE SHAPIRO

ROBIN WEIMAN

YEHUDA NEUBERGER

Past President

HOWARD LIBIT

Executive Director



## Written Testimony

### Senate Bill 683 Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program

Budget and Taxation Committee - March 2, 2022

## Support

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation

American Jewish Committee

Americans for Peace Now

Baltimore Chapter

American Israel Public Affairs Committee

American Red Magen David for Israel

American Zionist Movement

Amit Women

Association of Reform Zionists of America

Baltimore Board of Rabbis

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance

Baltimore Men's ORT

Baltimore Zionist District

Beth Am Congregation

Beth El Congregation

Beth Israel Congregation

Beth Shalom Congregation of

Howard County

Beth Tfiloh Congregation

B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region

B'nai Israel Congregation

B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation

Bolton Street Synagogue

Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.

Chevrei Tzedek Congregation

Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Congregation Beit Tikvah

Congregation Beth Shalom of

Carroll County

Congregation Tiferes Yisroel

Federation of Jewish Women's

Organizations of Maryland

Hadassah

Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation

J Street

Jewish Federation of Howard County

Jewish Labor Committee

Jewish War Veterans

Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary

Jewish Women International

Jews For Judaism

Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah

Hebrew Congregation

National Council of Jewish Women

Ner Tamid Congregation

Rabbinical Council of America

Religious Zionists of America

Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation

Shomrei Emunah Congregation

Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society

Suburban Orthodox Congregation

Temple Beth Shalom

Temple Isaiah

Zionist Organization of America

Baltimore District

**Background: Senate Bill 683, (SB683)** would establish the Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund in the Maryland Energy Administration. The fund would be funded at \$5 million dollars from FY24-FY26. The purpose of the Program is to provide zero interest loans to nonprofits wishing to install and purchase qualifying renewable energy systems. Qualifying systems include solar and geothermal heating and cooling systems. Nonprofits would be required to contribute at least 10% of the project's costs upfront, with priority given to nonprofits with annual budgets under \$1 million dollars.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council and the The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore are committed to repairing our world. We represent The Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices. The Pearlstone Center and the Associated jointly run a Green Loan Fund, similar to the fund that is established in SB683. This fund has issued more than \$600,000 in loans for faith-based institutions in Maryland. Further, the Associated has signed a 20-year lease for all Associated owned properties to run on 50% solar, and Pearlstone at 75% solar, and Pearlstone will be 100% when it adds solar panels to its buildings.

Many nonprofits want to invest in green projects, but they do not have the capital reserves to fund them. SB683 would allow these nonprofits the chance to create greener buildings. We encourage this committee to join us in our mission to create a cleaner Maryland that is healthier for everyone.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on SB683.

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

5750 Park Heights Avenue, Suite 329 • Baltimore, Maryland 21215

410-542-4850 • fax 410-542-4834 • baltjc.org

Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

