



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chair
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: January 31, 2022
RE: HB0108 Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing

The MLLC supports HB0108 Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0108.

Maryland's low-income residents currently pay 550% more as a portion of income for energy than most Marylanders. The majority of these households (55%) are Black, Hispanic, or Asian families. Money spent on high utility bills is money that cannot be used for other daily necessities, from school supplies to medical bills. From rural Maryland to Baltimore City, these residents often endure broken HVAC systems, drafty windows, and unreliable electrical systems, all of which contribute to high energy bills and unhealthy living conditions. Marylanders can't afford to wait.

This bill will require the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide energy-efficient and conservation programs and services designed to achieve energy savings for low-income electricity customers. It also requires the Public Service Commission to include the status of low-income programs and services designed to achieve target annual incremental energy savings (of at least 0.4% per year and shall increase to 1% in 2026) to encourage and promote the efficient use and conservation of energy directed to low-income communities in the annual report to the General Assembly. It will also require the establishment of the Green and Healthy Task Force to analyze and advance the coordination of resources to address the housing needs of low-income communities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0108.