



Committee: Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB998 - Silver Energy Savers Fund & Energy Assistance Fund

Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 3, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB998. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably.

41% of Marylanders who need energy assistance are Seniors. Because the application process is principally on-line and requires applicants to upload numerous verification documents online to apply for six different grant programs, Seniors who are not tech savvy are utterly defeated by the process. And if these Seniors don't have patient, loving, tech savvy family members they end up not getting the energy assistance they need.

HB998 solves this problem by creating a third-party call system with navigators who personally assist seniors, one-on-one to go through the application process and submit the needed documents to enroll in the program.

We urge you to vote favorably for this thoughtful and caring legislation.