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VIA EMAIL

Delegate C. T. Wilson
Chair
Delegate Brian M. Crosby
Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee

**Re: HB 108 - Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing**

Dear Delegate Wilson and Delegate Crosby:

I write to express the Office of People Counsel's support of House Bill 108, Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing. OPC supports HB 108 requirements for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to procure or provide energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) programs and services for electricity customers for the 2022-2024 EmPOWER Maryland Program cycle. The EE&C programs and services must be designed to achieve a target annual incremental gross energy savings of at least 0.4% per year, compared to 2019, starting in 2023.

OPC supports HB 108's intent that an extension of the EmPOWER Program beyond 2023 should target annual incremental gross energy savings increases to 0.53% in 2024, 0.72% in 2025 and 1% in 2026. The bill accounts for the unique challenges of low-income program delivery and facilitates EmPOWER Maryland's delivery of energy savings benefits to low-income populations. The benefits to low-income customers from energy efficiency activities and weatherization improvements contribute to customers' well-being and lower costs for essential energy services.

OPC looks forward to participating in the Green and Healthy Task Force created by HB 108 with government and public sector stakeholders to examine low-income housing and energy needs. The Green and Healthy Task Force will present

recommendations on these critical issues to the Governor and the General Assembly next year.

OPC asks the Economic Matters Committee to grant HB 108 with a favorable report. We thank the Committee for your continued efforts on this matter.

Sincerely,



David S. Lapp
People's Counsel