



**SB524 – Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation  
Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing**

**Testimony before  
Senate Finance Committee**

**February 15, 2022**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My name is Ruth Auerbach, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today to **support SB524**, to provide low-income electricity customers with energy efficiency and conservation programs and services. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are grateful for the leadership of Senator Feldman for sponsoring this bill.

We enthusiastically support efforts to improve energy efficiency in Maryland's housing stock. Additionally, too many low-income Marylanders have high energy bills and unhealthy living conditions that need to be addressed. Unfortunately, many of the upgrades that improve energy efficiency have initial costs that are a barrier to many. Many energy efficiency programs and services are disproportionately not reaching low-income households, who already pay 550% percent more as a portion of their income for energy. We believe that the targets for energy savings for low-income households will help reverse this trend.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.**

Ruth Auerbach  
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