



**Committee: Finance**

**Testimony on: SB0719 - Office of Home Energy Services-Uniform Redetermination Process**

**Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing**

**Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 1, 2022**

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0719. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably for this bill. .

SB0719 is a companion bill to SB0905. It allows Seniors over the age of 65 who receive energy assistance to be automatically renewed for such assistance annually, rather than be compelled to reapply. 41% of Marylanders who need energy assistance are Seniors. Many of these Seniors, some of whom may be slipping in mental capacity, find it challenging to re-apply each year, on-line, to the six different programs, each requiring numerous verification documents. Seniors who are not tech savvy and whose memory may be slipping 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.

SB0719 is a simple and necessary fix.

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