



February 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Kelley and Members of the Committee,

Quaker Voice of Maryland is submitting this testimony in FAVOR of SB0524– *Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing.*

Low and very low-income Marylanders continue to face a disproportionate share of costs for electricity and other utilities. It is estimated that on average, low-income households pay 13% of their income for electricity and for very low-income households this cost is estimated to be over 30% of household income. These high costs can be contributing factors leading to health-related issues and homelessness.

Quaker Voice of Maryland acknowledges the Department of Housing and Community Development for their current efforts to address this issue. However, we also believe that as housing and other costs continue to rise, those whose incomes are the lowest will continue to be the most impacted. DHCD's current targets for addressing this problem are not sufficient to meet the very real crisis that many low and very low-income households are facing today.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

Molly Finch

Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland

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