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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 256

MD Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund

Chairman Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and Members of the Finance.

Senate Bill 256 establishes the Resiliency Hub Grant Program within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to develop resiliency hubs that serve low-and moderate-income households at no cost to the households.

A "resiliency hub" is a location where solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage are designed to provide electricity during an extended grid outage. This can occur at a community center, a church, a school, in a government building or other nonprofit location that are in low to moderate income areas of the state.

The bill requires the Administration to establish certain procedures and criteria for the Program; it also requires that certain reliability fines and penalties be credited to the Resiliency Hub Grant Program Fund. The MEA is tasked to provide \$500,000 each year to this program. Funding is also available from FEMA and other Federal infrastructure funds. MEMA and MEA are tasked with writing grants.

The vision of this program is to allow community gathering centers to build energy generation powered by solar equipment and stored in the microgrid. When a power outage last more than 4 hours, the center would open providing people with cooling or heat, a location to charge cell phones and/or medical equipment, refrigeration, ventilation and emergency lighting.

I ask your favorable report on SB256, a new and innovative idea that will help communities and create jobs.