



TESTIMONY FOR SB0256

Maryland Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund

Bill Sponsor: Senator Beidle

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0256 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

We have all heard about the failure of the energy grid in Texas, and we've all experienced outages here in Maryland, even though our grid is better managed and more robust. Even Maryland can use a little resiliency these days.

Microgrids or "resiliency hubs" are localized grids that can disconnect from the traditional grid and operate independently during extended grid outages, such as those due to extreme weather events. In the world of climate change, this is expected to happen more and more often. We need to invest in resiliency technology and this is a particularly good way to do it and, even better, it supports our neighbors in Maryland who most need the help.

This bill will help expand microgrid development in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods; develop opportunities for community ownership of solar; and coordinate emergency preparedness efforts and funding in a way that maximizes federal funds for these efforts.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.