

SB186 - Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizatio

Uploaded by: Abigail Snyder

Position: FAV

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Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

Written Testimony

**Senate Bill 186 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations
Loan Program and Fund
Budget and Taxation Committee – January 25, 2023**

Support

Background: Senate Bill 186 would establish the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund under the Maryland Energy Administration. The fund would be established using \$5 million from the Governor's proposed budget in FY25 and an additional \$5 million in FY26. The purpose of the Program is to provide zero-interest loans to nonprofits that wish to purchase and install qualifying renewable energy systems. Nonprofits would be required to contribute at least 10% of the project's costs upfront, with priority given to nonprofits with annual budgets under \$1 million dollars.

Written Comments: The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* means to repair the world in which we live. As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, we represent organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world. One of these entities is *The Pearlstone Center* in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices. *The Pearlstone Center* and The Associated jointly run a [Green Loan Fund](#), similar to the fund that would be established in SB186. The aggregate amount loaned totals \$900,000 and the cumulative savings is over \$1.5 million to date.

Further, the Associated has signed a 20-year lease for all Associated-owned properties to run on at least 50% solar. *The Pearlstone Center* currently operates on 85% solar, with 10 % coming from onsite solar and 75% coming from the Associated's large scale solar project.

Many nonprofits want to invest in green projects, but they do not have the capital reserves to fund them. SB186 would allow these nonprofits the chance to partake in a more sustainable future. We encourage this committee to join us in our mission to create a cleaner Maryland that is healthier for everyone.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on SB683.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

BSO Written Testimony _ SB 186 _ Green and Renewa

Uploaded by: Allison Burr-Livingstone

Position: FAV



Written Testimony: **SB186: Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations
Loan Program and Fund**
Position: **Favorable**

January 24, 2023

To: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

On behalf of the Board, Musicians, and Staff of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), I am writing to affirm our support and request your favorable consideration of SB 186.

Designed to provide a superb concert hall befitting a world-class orchestra, the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall has been the BSO's primary home since its public opening in September 1982. The BSO has welcomed hundreds of thousands of patrons in each of the seasons that have followed; and, the Meyerhoff has served as a community and economic development resource, hosting regional performing, and presenting organizations that attract talent and tourism as well as serving as a hub for local presenters, graduations, fundraisers, and commemorations.

The BSO, together with the Baltimore Symphony Endowment Trust, owns and is financially responsible for the maintenance and modernization of the Meyerhoff. As we actively pursue critical and catalytic improvements to our now 40-year-old facility, top of mind are 1) strategic opportunities to reduce our energy footprint and in turn annual operating costs, and 2) the resources required and/or incentives available to support such initiatives without burdening operating cash flow.

The climate is changing in alarming and rapid ways with causes stemming from human behaviors, many of which are within our power to change. Now more than ever, with rising costs and a competitive philanthropic landscape, a dedicated loan fund within the Maryland Energy Administration would help nonprofits like the BSO pursue renewal energy systems and other green initiatives that while important might not otherwise be financially prioritized or possible. Such a program would not only benefit individual nonprofits, but also, support the State in our collective fight against climate change.

For these reasons, we ask the committee to give a favorable report on SB 186.

Submitted respectfully,

Allison Burr-Livingstone
Senior Vice President & Chief Advancement Officer

BSOMUSIC.ORG

MD SB.186 Testimony EveryMind.pdf

Uploaded by: Amse Heck

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 186: *Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund*
Budget and Taxation Committee, January 25, 2023 –FAVORABLE
Ann Mazur, Chief Executive Officer, EveryMind

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Ann Mazur and I am the Chief Executive Officer of EveryMind, a mental health nonprofit serving over 30,000 individuals operating across the State of Maryland. Our programs include operation of one of the eight core Suicide Prevention Lifeline centers in the State, veteran suicide prevention and care coordination through our ServingTogether program, and community education such as Mental Health First Aid through EveryMind's Education department.

EveryMind supports Senate Bill 186, which would establish an interest-free revolving loan fund that would provide financial assistance for the purchase and installation of alternative energy technologies. Maryland has an estimated 32,000 nonprofits. Many of these organizations actively contribute to reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions through careful management of their own operations as well as education and advocacy aimed at the general public and policymakers. We could do more. One limitation is the lack of capital to invest in renewable energy technology. This fund would provide a resource that nonprofits could tap to support investment in equipment, software, and technical assistance and ultimately reduce overhead costs. It is a step in the right direction, and should prove helpful to midsized and larger nonprofits such as EveryMind, which have the capacity to undertake such a project and which have operating budgets reflecting a significant investment from State and County governments. We hope that the Budget and Taxation Committee will continue to look at ways to make renewable energy more accessible to smaller nonprofits and for profits through subsidies and tax incentives which they could leverage more easily.

Please support SB 186. Thank you.

SB 186 Nonprofit Montgomery_Written Testimony in S

Uploaded by: Franca Brilliant

Position: FAV



Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 186: *Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund*

Budget and Taxation Committee, January 25, 2023 – FAVORABLE

Franca Brilliant, Advocacy and Development Director, Nonprofit Montgomery

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Franca Brilliant and I am the Advocacy and Development Director for Nonprofit Montgomery. We support our nearly 200-member nonprofit organizations with technical assistance, training and resources, and advocacy on issues of importance to the nonprofit sector—such as the one you are considering today.

Nonprofit Montgomery supports Senate Bill 186, which would establish an interest-free revolving loan fund that would provide financial assistance for the purchase and installation of alternative energy technologies. Maryland has an estimated 32,000 nonprofits. Many of these organizations actively contribute to reducing the state’s greenhouse gas emissions through careful management of their own operations as well as education and advocacy aimed at the general public and policymakers. They could do more. One limitation is the lack of capital to invest in renewable energy technology. This fund would provide a resource that nonprofits could tap into to support investment in equipment, software, and technical assistance. It is a step in the right direction and should prove helpful to larger nonprofits, which are more likely to both own their buildings and have the capacity to undertake such a project. Smaller nonprofits are less likely to be positioned to take advantage of this funding. We hope that the Budget and Taxation Committee will continue to look at ways to make renewable energy more accessible to smaller nonprofits and for-profits through subsidies and tax incentives which they could leverage more easily.

Please support SB 186. Thank you.

Testimony SB186_ Green & Renewable Energy Efficie

Uploaded by: Garrett Beloff

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

Vice Chair
Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Joint Audit Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Green & Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits (“G.R.E.E.N.”) Loan (SB186)

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2pm

Solving our Climate Crisis requires concerted action by both individuals and organizations. In this context, nonprofits have a critical role to play. Unfortunately, many of Maryland’s 32,000 nonprofit organizations cannot afford an upgrade to renewable energy. A food pantry, homeless shelter, or arts center is investing in their mission, without leftover income to install renewable energy systems. Establishing a fund to support nonprofits’ investment in clean energy would be an significant step in reaching climate goals while helping 501(c)(3)’s reduce their energy bills.

[SB186](#) would create an interest-free, revolving loan fund: “Green & Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits” (G.R.E.E.N.). It would be housed within the [Maryland Energy Administration](#) (MEA) to help nonprofits purchase and install clean energy systems. This is a modified reintroduction of [SB683](#), Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations, “R.E.N.O.,” which **passed the Senate unanimously in 2022**. This version restores funds and increases the options to include both green and renewable energy technologies.

“G.R.E.E.N.” would launch on July 1, 2024, giving MEA one year from the bill’s effective date to design, advertise, and launch the Fund. MEA would establish the criteria for application, selection, and repayment that include:

- Nonprofits that own (rather than rent) their buildings;
- Geographic diversity;
- Ethnic/racial diversity;
- Socioeconomic diversity;
- Mission diversity;
- Ability to match 10% of the project cost
- An agreed-upon schedule for repaying the loan.

SB186 proposes to appropriate \$5,000,000 in FY25. In FY26, the fund would receive \$5,000,000-- minus the remainder from the previous fiscal year. Therefore, if FY25 ends with \$2,000,000 balance, only \$3,000,000 would be added.

Maryland’s nonprofit organizations want to do their part in addressing our Climate Crisis. This “G.R.E.E.N.” Revolving Loan Fund will help them lower their utility bills as well as their carbon footprint.

I urge a favorable report on SB186 with a small technical amendment.

SB 186 - B&T - Support --- Renewable Energy Loans

Uploaded by: Henry Bogdan

Position: FAV

January 25, 2023

Testimony on Senate Bill 186
Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1400 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 186, to assist nonprofits with investments that will benefit their long-term financial stability and contribute to the state's efforts to maximize the benefits of clean energy.

Nonprofits suffered along with the rest of the private sector throughout the pandemic, with disruption of operations, revenue losses, and workforce shortages. Their financial reserves, in most cases less than adequate even pre-pandemic, have suffered seriously. Even in the best of times, their ability to upgrade facilities or invest in newer technologies has been limited by difficulties in borrowing.

Significant financial incentives already exist to promote the broad use of renewable energy sources by individuals or businesses. But because the tax code is being used as the vehicle for these policy incentives, they are not applicable to tax exempt organizations.

Senate Bill 186 would provide many charitable nonprofits the opportunity to make long term investments in their buildings taking advantage of the benefits of renewable energy sources. These investments would benefit the public in several ways. Nonprofits can provide more services when operating more efficiently with reduced energy costs. The buildings they improve, or any value increase realized when they would be sold, are actually assets that must continue to be used or dedicated for the benefit of the public.

Finally, increased use of renewable energy helps the community and the state to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lessen the threat of global warming.

We urge you to give SB 186 a favorable report.

SB 0186 2023 CCAN testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jamie DeMarco

Position: FAV



**Testimony in Support of
SB 0186
Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
Senate Budget and Tax Committee
1/25/2022**

**Jamie DeMarco, Maryland Director
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report for SB 0186.

Solar and wind energy is now the cheapest forms of electricity anywhere. Whenever there is a bid for new electricity, the cheapest bids are solar and wind coupled with batteries that can provide reliable, 24/7 power. In 2022, [74%](#) of all new electricity generation came from solar, wind, and batteries. That percentage has been shooting up every year because wind and solar coupled with batteries provide the cheapest form of reliable energy on the market.

This is great news and it didn't happen by accident. This legislature and other legislatures like it invested in wind and solar over the past two decades and brought down their costs astronomically. From the first RPS more than 20 years ago to the Clean Energy Jobs Act and the Climate Solutions Now Act your legislative action has made it so that cost is no longer the limiting factor on how much wind and solar we can deploy.

Now, the limiting factor on how much wind and solar we can deploy is space. We are having trouble finding space to put all the solar panels that people want to build.

This legislation plays the crucial role of identifying a new space for solar panels, namely the rooftops of nonprofit buildings. As someone who co-founded and ran the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative nonprofit, I can tell you that it is extremely difficult for nonprofits to buy their own solar panels. Nonprofits lack the tax equity to benefit from tax credits for solar panels, and nonprofits are rarely cash rich, meaning it is difficult to pay the upfront cost of the panels. This legislation helps bridge that gap.

The climate crisis demands we deploy solar panels as quickly as humanly possible. Furthermore, Maryland imports 40% of the electricity it uses, and as a result every year Maryland ratepayers send billions of dollars out of state. Every locally owned solar panel that goes up in Maryland means more of the dollars we all spend on our energy bills stay right here at home.



If this bill passes, roofs of nonprofits across Maryland will be covered with solar panels creating clean, affordable, reliable electricity that everyone in the state will benefit from.

We urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Jamie DeMarco

CONTACT
Jamie DeMarco, Maryland Director
jamie@chesapeakeclimate.org, 443-845-5601



FAVORABLE_ SB186 - Renewable Energy Loans for Nonp

Uploaded by: Kristen Harbeson

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

January 24, 2023

Kim Coble
Executive Director

2023 Board of
Directors

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The Hon. Steve Lafferty
Patrick Miller
Bonnie L. Norman
Katherine (Kitty)
Thomas

SUPPORT: SB186 -Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program

Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB186: Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund, and we thank Senator Kagan for her leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV is committed to 100% clean energy for Maryland and this bill is one of the many important steps to help secure that goal.

In order to confront the climate crisis and reach the emission reduction goals set forth in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, Maryland must take meaningful action in the building sector, the second largest contributor to our state's greenhouse gas emissions. A dedicated, revolving loan fund for nonprofit organizations will allow those owning their buildings access to capital to encourage adoption of rooftop solar and energy efficiency upgrades. This funding source will be even more meaningful following the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act by the federal government, which makes nonprofit organizations eligible for direct payment for installation of solar energy projects.

SB186 provides a method for small nonprofit organizations in Maryland to benefit from renewable energy and energy efficiency while supporting broader goals for Maryland to achieve clean energy.

Maryland LCV strongly urges a favorable report on this important bill.

SB186_MDSierraClub_fav 25Jan2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Posner

Position: FAV



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB186 “Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: January 25, 2023

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports SB186. This bill would create a zero-interest revolving loan program in the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to support adoption of renewable energy systems by nonprofit entities.

This bill addresses a gap in the renewable energy incentives the state offers by providing zero-interest loans with up to 90% financing for nonprofit organizations, who may not be able to take advantage of tax-based incentives to install solar panels and geothermal heat pumps.

Many nonprofit organizations are prominent in their communities, and their leadership can provide an inspiration for broader change. We appreciate the provision in the bill to prioritize applications from smaller nonprofits, those with budgets less than \$1 million.

Increased adoption of solar and geothermal renewable energy systems by nonprofit entities would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable more sectors of our state’s economy to participate in our goal of reaching zero net emissions from buildings by 2045. Reducing our state’s emissions of greenhouse gases will be most successful if all sectors of the economy participate.

SB186 supports the nonprofit sector in its participation in this effort. We urge a favorable report.

Mark A. Posner
Clean Energy Team Lead
Mposner5719@gmail.com

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

SB 186 Renewable Energy BT FAV FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Power

Position: FAV

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Bill 186 (Kagan) Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations
Loan Program and Fund

Matt Power, President
mpower@micua.org
January 25, 2023

On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the 56,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of [Senate Bill 186 \(Kagan\) – Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund](#). This bill establishes the Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). This bill also requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill for the fiscal year 2025 an appropriation of \$5 million and fiscal year 2026 at least \$5 million minus the fund’s balance on June 30, 2024, to support the operations of the program. This bill also requires the MEA, by July 1, 2023, to develop an advertising campaign for the program by July 1, 2024, to establish guidelines, considerations, and application procedures.

In 2022, the Maryland General Assembly passed the [Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 \(Senate Bill 528/Chapter 38\)](#), which changes the State’s approach to reducing statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and addressing climate change. The law establishes new and alters existing energy conservation requirements and expands specified energy efficiency and conservation program requirements. The non-profit sector can play an important role helping the State reduce its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. MICUA’s institutions support efforts to help the State achieve reduced GHG emissions in the future. Most MICUA schools comply with the law, and others are developing plans to reach the expected GHG emissions goals. SB 186 would provide an opportunity for MICUA institutions to apply for funds to purchase the necessary equipment and machinery that would qualify as a green and renewable energy system to participate in the statewide initiatives to reduce the State’s GHG emission by 60% in 2031.

We appreciate the effort that the sponsor has made to achieve reduced GHG emissions in Maryland. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, ialtema@micua.org.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for Senate Bill 186.

SB0186 - FWA - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonp

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: FWA



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Members, House Environment & Transportation Committee
FROM: Paul Pinsky - Director, MEA
SUBJECT: SB 186 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
DATE: January 25, 2023

MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Senate Bill 683 would create a revolving loan fund within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to benefit nonprofits that install renewable energy assets.

The Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program (Program) would create greater opportunities for nonprofits to finance renewable geothermal or solar energy systems. Additionally, the Program applicants can simultaneously apply for other, complimentary State and federal programs.

The structure of the Program is based largely on the Jane E. Lawton Loan Program, already housed within MEA. These similarities will likely result in some operational inefficiencies that will limit the bill's effects on MEA operations and expenses. MEA initially plans to ramp-up lending over a yet undetermined course of time that will allow it to operate as a revolving loan fund; only requiring future injections of capital for expansion of the program.

MEA is offering three (3) amendments on the following page that can be described as corrective or even technical. The amendments will provide clarity as to who may legally bind a nonprofit to a Program loan, alter the metric used to define priority applicants, and clarify that MEA has the freedom to set requirements for borrower assurances.

For the foregoing reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue a **favorable report as amended**.

Amendment No. 1 better defines who may commit a nonprofit to a loan.

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3, strike beginning with the second “THE” in line 21 down through “OF” in line 22 and substitute “**AN AGENT WITH THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO BIND**”.

Amendment No. 2 ties the metric used to determine program priority to a number that is required in the annual federal tax filing for nonprofits.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in line 13, strike “AN ANNUAL BUDGET” and substitute “**TOTAL REVENUE**”.

Amendment No. 3 clarifies that other assurances may be required by the Administration in addition to a promissory note and a plan for repayment.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 4, in line 26, after “REPAYMENT” insert “**AND ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION**”.

Energy.pdf

Uploaded by: Dana Schulze

Position: UNF

Balanced Energy policies must provide Marylanders multiple, reliable and affordable energy choices.