



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.