



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 1035**

Electric Companies, Gas Companies, and the Department of Housing and  
Community Development – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans

Date: March 2, 2023

To: House Economic Matters Committee

Position: Support

From: Doug Myers

Maryland Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1035 which requires the creation of energy efficiency and conservation plans and programs from gas and electric utilities.

Numerous economic studies conclude that energy conservation and building electrification are the quickest and most cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As Maryland has set one of the most ambitious target for greenhouse gas reductions in the country, HB 1035 creates the appropriate emphasis and a reasonable path forward for achieving that goal. Electrification works in concert with other Maryland policies like the renewable energy portfolio standard to rapidly decarbonize as electric energy generation transitions from fossil fuels to renewable sources, especially wind and solar.

Greenhouse gases not only have well documented effects in destabilizing our climate, but all forms of combustion also release nitrogen oxides which become bay pollution when it rains. Lastly, the provision of energy efficiency and conservation programs to low-income residents begins to reverse long-standing environmental inequities.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1035.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.