



February 27, 2023

Dear Chair Senator Feldman, Vice Chair Senator Kagan and Members of the Committee,

Quaker Voice of Maryland is writing in **SUPPORT** of **SB0689 – Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Alterations and Requirements.**

Quaker Voice of Maryland represents Quaker Meetings throughout the State of Maryland. Our faith as Quakers is entwined with our commitment to stewardship and respect for the earth and her natural resources and the belief in equity in access to basic human needs including decent, safe and affordable housing and energy. This bill ensures Maryland will provide leadership towards the new green future by building on the success of EmPOWER Maryland and keeping us on the path to a clean, affordable, and energy efficient future.

SB 0689 will move the State in the direction of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and slowing the rate of climate change by:

- Setting clear performance targets, climate benchmarks, incentives, and penalties for utilities to ensure the program is reducing Maryland's overall energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Building on the successful EmPOWER rebates and resources for energy audits and weatherization.
- By creating a multilingual community outreach program to expand access for low-income and multilingual households to funds for energy efficiency, whole-home retrofits including lead and asbestos removal, mold remediation, and other improvements.

We encourage a **FAVORABLE** report for this legislation that is essential to achieving the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets as well as moving towards equity of access to the EmPOWER Maryland resources.

Sincerely,

Molly Finch

Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland

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