



**Testimony for SB0689**  
**Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions -  
Alterations and Requirements**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Lewis Young

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Position:** FAVORABLE

The undersigned organizations express their strong support for **SB0689 Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Alterations and Requirements** and thank the sponsor, Senator Lewis Young, for introducing this critical piece of legislation.

The EmPOWER program has been highly successful in achieving its goals of incentivizing energy efficiency and saving consumers money on their electric bills. As Maryland looks towards a clean energy future, where all of our residents can enjoy the benefits of clean energy, we see the EmPOWER program as a key element in resolving the barriers to conversion for low-income, overburdened residents.

The bill's provisions to expand EmPOWER's reach into low-income and overburdened/underserved communities by creating a multilingual community outreach specialist is an important addition that will help those communities take advantage of the program. We also strongly support the bill's provisions to expand the network of contractors eligible to participate in EmPOWER, and the ongoing education, outreach, training, and certification for contractors to deliver services and ensure the most vulnerable communities realize the greatest benefits.

The bill also sets clear performance targets and climate benchmarks, and includes incentives and penalties for utilities to meet these goals. In addition, the bill will make homes healthier, through weatherization and health and safety improvements such as lead removal, mold remediation, asbestos removal, and other building improvements.

It is always important to lead with equity and to be creative about removing barriers to adoption for any endeavor. We believe that the program improvements contained in this bill will move Maryland more aggressively toward its energy use and GHG emissions reduction goals, save customers money, and put a greater focus on the low-income communities that have historically received the fewest benefits.

The Climate Partners strongly support this bill and we urge a **FAVORABLE** vote from the committee.

## Endorsing Organizations

350 Baltimore	HoCo Climate Action	Potomac Conservancy
350 Montgomery County	Howard County Indivisible	Sustainability Advisory
Adat Shalom Climate Action	Howard County Sierra Club	Committee
Assateague Coastal Trust	Interfaith Power and Light, DC,	Sierra Club, Maryland
Audubon Naturalist Society	MD, NoVa	Chapter
Casa de Maryland	Labor Network for	Strong Future Maryland
Cedar Lane Unitarian	Sustainability	Sunrise Baltimore
Universalist Church	Laurel Resist	Takoma Park Mobilization
CHEER	Maryland Environmental	Environment Committee
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Health Network	Talbot Rising
Chesapeake Climate	Maryland League of	The Climate Mobilization
Action Network Action Fund	Conservation Voters	Montgomery County
Chesapeake Physicians for	Maryland Legislative	The Nature Conservancy
Social Responsibility	Coalition	Unitarian Universalist
Chispa MD	Maryland NAACP	Legislative Ministry
Clean Air Prince Georges	State Conference,	Wicomico NAACP
Clean Air Prince Georges	Environmental Justice	WISE
Clean Water Action	Committee	
Climate Law & Policy Project	Maryland Poor People's	
Climate Parents of Prince	Campaign	
Georges	MCPS Clean Energy	
Climate Reality Montgomery	Campaign	
County	MD Campaign for	
Climate Solutions	Environmental Human	
Climate Stewards of	Rights	
Greater Annapolis	Mid-Atlantic	
Climate XChange - Maryland	Ministry of Maryland	
Coalition For Smarter Growth	MoCo DCC	
Columbia Association Climate	Montgomery Countryside	
Change	Alliance	
Concerned Citizens Against	Montgomery County Faith	
Industrial CAFOs	Alliance	
Do The Most Good	Mountain Maryland	
Montgomery County	Movement	
Echotopia	National Parks Conservation	
Elders Climate Action	Association	
Environmental Justice Ministry	Nuclear Information &	
Frack Free Frostburg	Resource Service	
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization		
Greenbelt Climate		
Action Network		