

February 28, 2023

Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 663, Maryland Resilient and Clean Energy Homes Act

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Feldman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Jamal Lewis, and I am representing an organization called Rewiring America. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Today, we urge a favorable report on HB0839, which would establish the Clean Energy Homes Pilot Program.

Rewiring America is the nation's leading electrification nonprofit, working toward a future where communities are powered by clean, resilient, and efficient electric systems. Electrification reaches all facets of our economy, generating significant cost savings for consumers while creating quality jobs for workers. Complete electrification of Maryland's homes would produce \$17 billion in residential electrification benefits and generate 29,000 direct and 102,000 total new jobs across the state. On average, each Maryland household would save \$600 per year in reduced energy bills.

Electrification is already here. The [proportion of all-electric homes is increasing in every part of the U.S.](#), and over one-in-four homes is now all-electric. For the first time ever, electric vehicle sales have surpassed [the tipping point for mass EV adoption](#), reaching a [record-high 5.6% of the total market](#) last April-June. Furthermore, Consumer Reports found that 71% of Americans are considering an [electric vehicle as their next car](#).

Electrifying fossil-powered appliances and infrastructure from residential and commercial buildings will be critical for Maryland to meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2031 and reaching economy-wide net-zero emissions as established in the [2022 Climate Solutions Now Act](#). Electrification work has already begun in Maryland, and many residential owners have [made the switch](#) to electric heat pumps for their homes. As

HB0839 recognizes, growing electrification demand will require upgrades to the electric grid and programs that help support load management.

Even with the availability of tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act, battery storage and electrical panel upgrades can be expensive investments for consumers without support. The Clean Energy Homes Pilot Program will assist families in making necessary upgrades for more resilient and energy-efficient homes, especially for low-income customers who would otherwise not be able to afford crucial upgrades. Encouraging participation in load management programs will also support and protect Maryland's electric grid.

As we push to electrify everything, it is critical to make grid upgrades as needed to support increased demand, on both the residential and commercial side. In passing HB0839 and establishing the Clean Energy Homes Pilot Program, this body recognizes that reality and would be taking necessary action. We urge you to vote "yes" on HB0839 and help Maryland communities move closer to a more resilient, healthier, and cleaner future. I am available for any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lewis".

Jamal Lewis
Director of Policy Partnerships & Equitable Electrification
Rewiring America