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**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Testimony on: HB660 “Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund”**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: February 8, 2024**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB660. This bill would create a zero-interest revolving loan program in the Maryland Energy Administration to support the purchase and installation by nonprofit entities of an electricity- or thermal energy-generating system for on-site use that will (as specified in the bill) assist Maryland in meeting its statutory “environmental and greenhouse gas reduction goals.”

Many nonprofit organizations are prominent in their communities, and their leadership can provide an inspiration for broader change. We appreciate the provision in the bill to prioritize applications from smaller nonprofits, those with budgets of less than \$1 million.

Increased adoption of solar and geothermal renewable energy systems by nonprofit entities would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enable more sectors of our State’s economy to participate in achieving our State’s ambitious and critically important greenhouse gas reduction goals. We need all sectors of the economy to join in this undertaking.

We urge a favorable report.

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