



HB660
Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

Testimony before the Economic Matters Committee

Hearing February 8, 2024

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Wilson and Co-Chair Crosby, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB660**, which would establish the Green and Renewable Energy Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration. We appreciate the leadership of Delegate Lorig Charkoudian in sponsoring this legislation.

HB660 establishes a loan program through the MEA to allow non-profit business to receive no-interest loans to plan, purchase and install qualifying energy systems. These systems must generate energy cost savings over the useful life of the system that equal or exceed the total amortized cost of the loan based on projected energy costs.

The MEA would be required to develop, manage, supervise, and administer an application process for these loans, and would prioritize loans to business with annual budgets of \$1M or less. Borrowers would contribute at least 10% of the cost of the qualifying energy system.

Loans made under the program must be repayable by the borrower in accordance with a schedule set by MEA, which may be on a deferred payment basis. A borrower must provide assurances for the repayment of a loan including a promissory note and a plan for repayment. Loans may be made in conjunction with, or in addition to, financial assistance provided through other State or federal programs.

This bill will enable small, non-profit organizations to become more energy efficient, thus supporting Maryland's climate goals as laid out in the Climate Solutions Now Act and other related Maryland laws.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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