



Testimony
HOUSE BILL 660
ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
February 8, 2024
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland’s community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non-profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland’s urban, suburban and rural communities.

HB 660 would create an interest-free, revolving loan fund: “Green & Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits” (G.R.E.E.N) within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to help nonprofits purchase and install clean energy systems.

Nonprofits can play a larger role in Maryland’s transition to Green Energy. This bill provides resources to help organization upgrade aging facilities and invest in newer technologies for heating and cooling as well as green roofs and solar.

Some financial incentives already exist to promote the broad use of renewable energy sources by individuals or businesses. The G.R.E.E.N Fund would provide many charitable organizations a realistic the opportunity to make long term investments in their buildings by taking advantage of the benefits of renewable energy sources.

These investments would benefit the public in several ways. Nonprofits can provide more effective services when operating more efficiently with reduced energy costs. The buildings they improve, or any value increase realized when they would be sold, are actually assets that must continue to be used or dedicated for the benefit of the public. Most importantly for everyone, increased use of renewable energy allows them to participate in helping Maryland reach its Green Energy goals.

We urge your favorable report for HB 660.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director, Community Development Network