



Written Support

House Economic Matters Committee *House Bill 660 (Charkoudian) Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund*

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the nearly 55,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of [House Bill 660 \(Charkoudian\) – Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund](#). This bill establishes the Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). This bill also requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill for the fiscal year 2026 an appropriation of \$5 million and fiscal year 2027 at least \$5 million minus the fund's balance on June 30, 2025, to support the operations of the program. This bill also requires the MEA, by July 1, 2024, to develop an advertising campaign for the program by July 1, 2025, to establish guidelines, considerations, and application procedures.

In 2022, the Maryland General Assembly passed the [Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 \(Senate Bill 528/Chapter 38\)](#), which changes the State's approach to reducing statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and addressing climate change. The law establishes new and alters existing energy conservation requirements and expands specified energy efficiency and conservation program requirements. The non-profit sector can play an important role helping the State reduce its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. MICUA's institutions support efforts to help the State achieve reduced GHG emissions in the future. Most MICUA schools comply with the law, and others are developing plans to reach the expected GHG emissions goals. HB 660 would provide an opportunity for MICUA institutions to apply for funds to purchase the necessary equipment and machinery that would qualify as a green and renewable energy system to participate in the statewide initiatives to reduce the State's GHG emission by 60% in 2031.

We appreciate the effort that the sponsor has made to achieve reduced GHG emissions in Maryland. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, ialtema@micua.org.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 660.