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Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Public Utilities

Chair, Unemployment Insurance



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 660- GREEN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS LOAN
PROGRAM AND FUND

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Maryland's 32,000 nonprofit organizations would greatly benefit from installing clean energy systems. Primarily, these systems would reduce energy bills for the organizations allowing more funds to be directed toward their missions. However, equally importantly, there would be a number of societal benefits from supporting organizations who are interested in installing their own clean energy systems including helping the state meet its greenhouse gas reductions targets, public health benefits from reduced incineration and burning of fossil fuels, and setting precedent for moving forward towards a clean energy future.

Although there are some local initiatives to support nonprofit organizations to invest in clean energy systems, currently there is no state level support program to provide technical and/or financial assistance. Programs for homeowners, schools, and other types of public buildings are administered through the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA).

The bill establishes the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program which will provide financial assistance to non-profit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of clean energy systems. The program will be administered by the MEA. Written into the bill language is the prioritization of smaller nonprofit organizations with an additional emphasis on including organizations representing a diversity of locations around the state, primary focus on a diversity of missions (not just environmental organizations), and comprising of/serving communities of various ethnic and racial backgrounds.

The attached amendments will ensure that there is no cost associated with this legislation until the point at which funds are allocated to the program.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 660.