



HB0864 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans

Testimony before the Maryland House Committee for Economic Matters

February 29, 2024

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Michael Loll, and I represent the Green Team of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Columbia, MD. Our group's mission is to care for God's creation as instructed by Catholic social teaching. To that end, we advocate for legislation that protects Maryland's environment and its citizens, particularly those who live in underserved and vulnerable communities. We provide written testimony today in **strong support of HB0864.**

The EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008 established incentives to make Maryland homes more energy efficient and less costly to heat and cool. Since its inception, EmPOWER has saved Marylanders over \$12.7 billion from an investment of \$3.5 billion in efficiency.

However, the Act passed in 2008 has not benefited all Marylanders equally. Many lower income residents have been left out of the program. HB0684 expands the program to include these residents (<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-announces-empower-maryland-plan-to-increase-energy-efficiency-and-reduce-utility-costs-in-more-than-60000-ma.aspx>). HB0684 reduces greenhouse gas emissions, promotes our green economy, and helps the underserved and vulnerable members of our state. Our church emphasizes creation care and looking out for the common good, and this bill meets both of those stipulations.

Thank you for your time and attention.

We encourage a favorable report.

Michael Loll

Columbia, MD