



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 864: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans**

**Position: FAV**

**February 29, 2024**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and my esteemed colleagues on the Economic Matters Committee. I am Vice Chair Delegate Crosby, here to present to you HB 864: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans.

This bill will make updates to our State's EmPOWER program, which are necessary to help our State meet our climate goals. There are many components to this bill, and there are amendments forthcoming. My office has been engaging with stakeholders for several months, and we continue to do so. Some of the major changes include:

1. Adding Choptank Electric Cooperative to the EmPOWER program.
2. Expanding the applicability of EmPOWER to gas companies.
3. Requiring electric and gas utilities and the Department of Housing and Community Development to adopt energy efficiency, conservation, demand response, and beneficial electrification measures to support greenhouse gas emissions reductions.
4. Setting new annual targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions. Reduction targets will be set for each electricity and gas company in three-year cycles. At least 80% of reductions must come from behind-the-meter programs, which will improve energy efficiency and lower utility bills for ratepayers.

The bill also includes provisions addressing cost recovery; tenant protections; the use of formaldehyde; labor standards for contractors; supporting a whole-home approach; the coordination of funding sources; language accessibility; long-range planning to further our State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals through energy efficiency, particularly for low-income households; and the evaluation of the programs' success.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I respectfully request a favorable report.