



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 864: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans

Position: FAV

March 21, 2024

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. I am 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. 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 all gas companies except for the smallest ones.
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 based on supporting greenhouse gas emissions reductions, instead of electricity load management.
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, and will be measured in metric tons. 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 safe insulating materials; 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; the evaluation of the programs' successes; and studying ways to extend program benefits better to moderate income households.

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