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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

March 20, 2024

Chair Brian Feldman
Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 864 - Favorable — Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is tasked with the implementation of the State of Maryland's energy efficiency programs, also known as EmPOWER. The PSC requests a favorable report for HB 864. HB 864 transitions the current energy efficiency programs, operated by the utilities and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), from an energy efficiency goal structure to a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal structure. This will allow Maryland to optimize the successful EmPOWER program to better serve the State's climate goals.

The recommendation to transition the EmPOWER Maryland program to a greenhouse gas reduction goal was supported by the Commission led workgroup that included a diverse group of stakeholders. Proposals to establish GHG reductions goals for EmPOWER have also been made by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and within the Maryland Department of the Environment's State Climate Plan. The PSC feels that the language in HB 864 provides the legislative intent and structure for the EmPOWER plans to move the State closer to achieving its climate goals in the future.

The Public Service Commission requests a Favorable report for HB 864. We appreciate the work of the sponsor and the numerous stakeholders who have worked on this bill this session. Please direct any questions you may have to Christina Ochoa, Director of Legislative Affairs, at christina.ochoa1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Frederick H. Hoover, Chair
Maryland Public Service Commission