



TESTIMONY FOR HB0864

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Crosby

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0864 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland needs a variety of energy solutions to achieve its ambitious statutory requirement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60% of 2006 levels by 2031. HB0864 will strengthen the original EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act, passed in 2008 to incentivize energy efficiency and energy conservation.

Two years ago, I took advantage of the EmPOWER program and received a rebate for insulating my attic and implementing other energy conservation steps. I now see a reduction in my energy bills. However, I was disappointed the program did not offer an incentive to shift my gas appliances to electricity to make my home healthier and more efficient.

HB0864 requires electric utilities to provide incentives for switching to clean, efficient electric appliances and home heating. I and other Marylanders can combine incentives in a strengthened EmPOWER

program with federal Inflation Reduction Act incentives to further reduce their costs.

For these reasons and more MLC strongly supports HB0864 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.