

SB105 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofits

Uploaded by: Abigail Snyder

Position: FAV

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 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
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 Baltimore District

Written Testimony
Senate Bill 105 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
Budget and Taxation Committee – January 15, 2024
Support

Background: Senate Bill 105 would establish the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund under the Maryland Energy Administration. The fund would be established using \$5 million from the Governor's proposed budget in FY27 and an additional \$5 million in FY28, minus the amount left in the fund from the previous year. The purpose of the Program is to provide zero-interest loans to nonprofits that wish to purchase and install qualifying renewable energy systems. Nonprofits would be required to contribute at least 10% of the project's costs upfront, with priority given to nonprofits with annual budgets under \$1 million dollars.

Written Comments: The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* means to repair the world in which we live. As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, we represent organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world. One of these entities is *The Pearlstone Center* in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices. *The Pearlstone Center* and The Associated jointly ran a [Green Loan Fund](#), similar to the fund that would be established in SB105, until 2023. The aggregate amount loaned through this fund totaled \$900,000 and the cumulative savings for nonprofits reached over \$1.5 million. Now, this program is combined with the national [Climate Action Fund](#), which is administered by Adamah – the umbrella organization that oversees the *Pearlstone* Campus, broadening the opportunities for nonprofits beyond the Baltimore region to benefit.

Further, the Associated has signed a 20-year lease for all Associated-owned properties to run on at least 50% solar. *The Pearlstone Center* currently operates on 85% solar, with 10 % coming from onsite solar and 75% coming from the Associated's large scale solar project.

Nonprofits should be encouraged and assisted to play a larger role in Maryland's transition to Green Energy. Many nonprofits want to invest in green projects, but they do not have the capital reserves to fund them. SB105 would allow these nonprofits the chance to partake in a more sustainable future. We encourage this committee to join us in our mission to create a cleaner Maryland that is healthier for everyone.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on SB105.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

SB0105_Green_Renewable_Energy_Loan_Pgm_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0105
GREEN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS LOAN PROGRAM AND FUND**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kagan

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0105 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.

It is imperative that all businesses and individuals switch to using clean, renewable energy as soon as possible to reduce our fossil fuel footprint. Our future, and our children's future is riding on it. However, this will be an expensive proposition. Maryland must work hard to ensure that funding is available for those least able to afford the transition. Nonprofit organizations generally struggle to affording the outlay to switch to clean energy, so this bill creates an interest-free revolving loan fund to help them afford to make the switch. The bill prioritizes nonprofits with budgets of less than \$1M and requires a 10% match.

Our members understand that the state is working hard to balance the budget, but we must create the framework to get rid of fossil fuels. It is costing the state a great deal of money to mitigate the damage from climate change, and that amount is growing. The prudent course is to fund the transition to clean energy and encourage everyone to make the switch.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

SB 105 - MoCo DEP - Fitzgerald (GA 25) FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett Fitzgerald

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 105

DATE: January 15, 2025

SPONSOR: Senator Kagan

ASSIGNED TO: Budget and Taxation Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

This bill would establish a Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program to be administered by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA).

This program would provide loans to help nonprofit organizations install rooftop solar projects and other renewable energy systems. It would complement the existing Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program, also administered by MEA, through which nonprofit organizations can obtain loans to improve the energy efficiency of their facilities. This would enable these organizations to undertake more comprehensive and cost-effective energy improvements.

Integrating this program into MEA will leverage its existing loan administration capacity, expertise, and outreach channels.

We respectfully request that the Budget and Taxation Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 105.

SB 105 - SUPP - B&T - Green and Renewable Energy

Uploaded by: Henry Bogdan

Position: FAV

Draft Testimony

Testimony on Senate Bill 105

Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund Senate Budget and Tax Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of almost 2000 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We are asking you to support this proposal to establish a Green and Renewable Energy Loan Program to assist nonprofits with investments that will benefit their long-term financial stability and contribute to the state's efforts to maximize the benefits of clean energy.

Nonprofits suffered along with the rest of the private sector throughout the pandemic, with disruption of operations, revenue losses, and workforce shortages. Their financial reserves, in most cases less than adequate even pre-pandemic, have suffered seriously. Even in the best of times, their ability to upgrade facilities or invest in newer technologies has been limited by difficulties in borrowing.

More than ever nonprofits should be encouraged and assisted to play a larger role in Maryland's transition to Green Energy. Significant financial incentives already exist to promote the broad use of renewable energy sources by individuals or businesses. But because the tax code is being used as the vehicle for most of these incentives, they are not as easily accessible to cash-strapped nonprofit organizations.

Senate Bill 105 would provide many charitable nonprofits the opportunity to make long term investments in their buildings taking advantage of the benefits of renewable energy sources. These investments can also benefit the public in several ways. Nonprofits can provide more services when operating more efficiently with reduced energy costs. The buildings they improve, or any value increase realized when they would be sold, are actually assets that must continue to be used or dedicated for the benefit of the public.

Finally, increased use of renewable energy helps the community and the state to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lessen the threat of global warming.

It is important note that the program funding does not take effect until FY 27, and may be sourced from special energy-related funds.

We urge you to give Senate Bill 105 a favorable report.

Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund testimony in support

Uploaded by: Jennifer Mizrahi

Position: FAV



Testimony in Strong Support of SB0105/HB0145 Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: January 15, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

Organization: Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund

Submitting: Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, Co-Founder

Position: Strong Support

Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony today in strong support of SB0105, the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund. My name is Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi. My family and I live in Annapolis, where we have faced multiple flooding events that have disrupted our lives and community. I serve on the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and am co-founder and director of the Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund, established 25 years ago.

In 2024 we supported 66 nonprofit organizations (see <https://mizrahienterprises.com/charitable>). Of those, 71% report that they have intentional policies and practices to minimize their negative impact on climate change. Additionally, 34% report that their goals are specific, measurable and that someone on their team is assigned to both measure their effectiveness and support their success in reducing any negative environmental impacts. However, we have found that time and again the nonprofits that we support cannot afford to implement the climate practices that they want to do. This bill will help close that gap for small nonprofits across Maryland.

Nonprofits play a vital role in addressing challenges and serving communities across Maryland. They are integral to Maryland's economy and social fabric. They employ nearly 13% of the state's workforce and provide essential services that reach every corner of our state. From running food banks and shelters to providing healthcare, education, and disaster relief, Maryland's nonprofits are on the front lines of creating resilient communities. Yet, they are often underfunded and

overburdened—a reality made worse by the escalating impacts of climate change and Maryland’s current budget crunch.

SB0105 provides a practical solution to these challenges. By offering no-interest loans to nonprofits for the planning, purchase, and installation of renewable energy systems, this program enables nonprofits to:

1. **Reduce Operating Costs:** Energy-efficient upgrades and renewable systems will lower utility bills, freeing up funds to expand critical services to Marylanders in need.
2. **Enhance Resilience:** Renewable energy systems reduce dependence on fossil fuels and improve nonprofits’ ability to continue operations during climate-related emergencies such as storms and power outages.
3. **Drive Economic Growth:** Supporting green energy projects stimulates local economies, creates clean energy jobs, and positions Maryland as a leader in sustainability.

Moreover, this bill directly supports Maryland’s ambitious climate goals, including achieving net-zero emissions. Nonprofits—whether they run health and disability services, educate our children or support fragile senior citizens—are uniquely positioned to lead by example in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering sustainable practices in the communities they serve.

The urgency of this issue cannot be overstated. As we have seen in Asheville, Los Angeles and other areas, climate catastrophes are costly and devastating. Maryland’s nonprofits are already stretched thin responding to emergencies—from flooding in Annapolis and Ellicott City to rising heatwaves in Baltimore and harm to our farmers and seafood industries. This bill will empower them to proactively address the climate crisis, reducing long-term risks and costs for our state.

As someone who previously founded and led a Maryland-headquartered disability nonprofit, I want to emphasize the unique and disproportionate risks that climate change poses to people with disabilities. Maryland is home to over 669,000 disabled residents, many of whom are extremely vulnerable to extreme weather events:

- Extreme heat or cold can be deadly for individuals with health conditions, especially those reliant on medical devices or temperature-sensitive medications.
- Power outages disrupt access to essential equipment, such as oxygen concentrators and power wheelchairs, leaving individuals stranded or at risk.

- Evacuation challenges during floods, fires, or severe storms often leave people with disabilities with no safe or accessible shelter options.

This bill prioritizes smaller nonprofits with annual budgets under \$1 million, ensuring equitable access to resources for organizations that serve our most vulnerable populations. By doing so, it will help protect not only the people we serve but also the places we love—from the Chesapeake Bay to our historic towns and cities.

Finally, this program will save Maryland money. By helping nonprofits invest in energy-efficient solutions, we reduce their reliance on government subsidies and disaster relief while cutting long-term energy costs. Additionally, leveraging federal funds and public-private partnerships to implement these projects will bring much-needed resources into our state. This proactive approach will alleviate the financial burden on Maryland taxpayers, allowing us to address pressing needs even during a budget crunch.

Maryland's nonprofits are ready and willing to do their part to build a sustainable future. SB0105 offers them the tools they need to succeed while creating a win-win for our state's economy, environment, and people. I urge you to support this bill and help us take a crucial step toward protecting Maryland from the growing threats of climate change.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Contact Information:

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi

Web: <https://mizrahienterprises.com/charitable> Email: JLM@LaszloStrategies.com

sb105-renewable loan fund, NPOs, B&T 1-15-'25.pdf

Uploaded by: Lee Hudson

Position: FAV



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony prepared for the
Budget and Taxation Committee
on
Senate Bill 105
January 15, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak about stewardship of creation. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community with three judicatories located in every part of our State.

Our community identified greenhouse gases as environmental pollutants in 1993 ("Caring for Creation," ELCA). We support transition to an energy production regime sourced from renewables in Maryland and other states.

Expansion of renewables in the energy sector is a stated Maryland policy goal. Many not-for-profits tend to be a collection of shoe-string operations doing the work of market failure.

A modest loan program that gets green energy into the NPO sector makes good policy sense. It can also help scale the renewable market, a goal we have supported for years.

We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson

SB105.pdf

Uploaded by: Liz Feighner

Position: FAV



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

**Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
SB105**

Hearing Date: Jan. 15

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kagan

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action

Position: Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

Howard County Climate Action supports SB and we urge a favorable report for SB105..

Howard County Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee

www.HoCoClimateAction.org

HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com

Testimony in support of SB0105 - Green and Renewab

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

01/15/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0105- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0105, Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

If Maryland is to meet its clean, renewable energy goals, this is a bill that moves us in that direction. Clean energy has proven itself to be a powerful driver of economic development in Maryland, including job creation. Using more renewable energy will give Maryland cleaner air and water, helping to protect our residents from the harm of fossil fuel pollution. That's why a broad and diverse coalition of environmentalists, public health officials, business leaders, labor leaders, faith leaders, academics, low-income advocates, and social justice advocates has come together to call on Maryland's leaders to significantly expand the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) policy.¹

The intent of this bill is towards establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems. It will further assist the state in establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Fund. It hopes to accomplish that by altering the uses of the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund. It also authorizes and directs the Governor to include \$5,000,000 in the fiscal year 2027 budget for the Fund.

In the face of a Federal Government in which commitment to clean energy and environmental protection is likely to be severely restricted or abandoned it is on Maryland to do what we can in our state to continue to move on our climate and energy goals. We should view this as an investment, not an expense, in reaching the desired future.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0105.

¹ <https://ccanactionfund.org/maryland/double-wind-solar/#:~:text=In%202017%2C%20the%20Maryland%20General,2030%20and%20100%25%20by%202040.>

Testimony - G.R.E.E.N. 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

—
Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3134 · 410-841-3134
800-492-7122 Ext. 3134
Fax 301-858-3665 · 410-841-3665
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB105: Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations
Loan Program and Fund (“G.R.E.E.N.”)**
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 10:30 AM

We are in the midst of a Climate Crisis, and solving it requires the work of governments, industry, individuals... and nonprofits.

Upgrading to renewable energy is expensive. Individuals and businesses can access incentive programs through tax credits that make conversion affordable. There are few, if any, loan programs for which our 43,000+ tax-exempt organizations are eligible. For the **past three years**, I’ve sponsored-- and the Senate passed **unanimously**-- a bill that would create a pathway for Maryland’s nonprofit organizations to participate in addressing our Climate Crisis.

The Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund (“G.R.E.E.N.”) would establish a revolving, interest-free loan fund within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). G.R.E.E.N. would be financed through MEA’s Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF), which received \$304 million in 2024 alone from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and other sources and continues to grow. The bill requires nonprofits to contribute 10% of their projects’ costs; they will repay their loans through the savings generated by their new energy-efficient technologies.

The 2022 bill inspired a portion of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, creating loan programs to help nonprofits and schools upgrade to renewable energy to the tune of [\\$50](#) million and [\\$500](#) million, respectively.

I urge a favorable report on SB105.

SB 105 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FWA



**MARYLAND STATE & DC
AFL-CIO**

Donna S. Edwards
President

Gerald W. Jackson
Secretary-Treasurer

**SB 105 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
January 15, 2025**

SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 105 if amended to include labor standards attached to the creation of certain energy systems. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

SB 105 seeks to provide financial assistance to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems. Through the creation of the Green and Renewable Energy Loan Program and establishment of the fund, this bill supports nonprofits in their efforts to "go green" and allows them to contribute to our state's ambitious energy goals without taking away funding from the mission and purpose of their organization.

The bill requires the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to oversee a number of aspects of the program such as overall supervision, ensuring that loans are being utilized appropriately and upholding the purpose of the program. As these energy systems are planned and developed, we can undoubtedly expect these projects to create jobs in sectors including construction, manufacturing and other trades. For these jobs, it is imperative that we apply labor standards. We must hold these energy jobs to a high standard, ensuring that we are setting the worker up for success and subsequently the project and our state's energy initiatives.

To address the inclusion of labor standards, we propose the following amendment:

On page 4, section 9-2104 -

"(4) ENSURE THAT WORKERS ARE NOT PAID LESS THAN THE PREVAILING WAGE RATE DETERMINED UNDER TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE."

This simply requires that employers pay fair wage rates in line with industry standards, preventing a race to the bottom on job standards and work quality. In adopting this amendment, we not only ensure the program benefits nonprofits and our energy goals, but also supports workers and fosters high-quality jobs in Maryland.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to submit a favorable report of SB 105 if amended. Thank you for your consideration.



SB 105 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FWA



**MARYLAND STATE & DC
AFL-CIO**

Donna S. Edwards
President

Gerald W. Jackson
Secretary-Treasurer

**SB 105 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
January 15, 2025**

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Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

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For these reasons, I urge the committee to submit a favorable report of SB 105 if amended. Thank you for your consideration.



B&T_SB0105_FWA_MCEC_2025_01_15.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Magruder

Position: FWA



I. Katherine Magruder
Executive Director
ikm@mdcleanenergy.org
301-314-6061

Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) was created as a not-for-profit corporate instrumentality of state in 2008 through an act of the Maryland General Assembly.

MCEC focuses on an economic development mission to advance the adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency products, services, and technologies with associated jobs, wages, and tax revenue for Maryland. MCEC leverages private capital and private sector capabilities; facilitates the commercialization of innovative advanced energy technologies; implements climate justice initiatives, strives to reduce energy costs for consumers, and drives reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of fossil fuels.

SB00105 – Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund

Hearing Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Committee: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Recommendation: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT REPORT

MCEC supports the intent and purpose of this legislation and is generally aligned in efforts to seek solutions to provide access to affordable capital for Nonprofit Organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems. The program proposed in this bill calls for no-interest loans to be made to qualified entities in a revolving fund but, other than a 10% cost contribution from the borrower, does not intend to leverage private investment with the funds.

The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 created the Climate Catalytic Capital (C3) Fund to be administered by the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) with \$5M of funding allocated in the Governor’s Budget each of the next three years, beginning in FY 2024. The C3 Fund is governed by an Investment Oversight Committee appointed by the MCEC Board of Directors and chaired by Comptroller Brooke Lierman. MCEC has been working for over a year developing a strategy, application process, and criteria for the selection of projects for the C3 Fund, as well as the use of public funds to attract greater private capital for projects designed to mitigate the effects of climate change through greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate adaptation.

The program proposed in SB0105 could be served by the C3 Fund in a complimentary and efficient manner with the proposed funding investment. MCEC respectfully requests the legislation be amended accordingly.

As the statewide green bank, MCEC has demonstrated experience managing loan programs, including the Clean Energy Advantage Loan Program for homeowners, the Maryland Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loan program serving commercial and nonprofit entities, and the Maryland Clean Energy Capital Program (MCAP) financing projects for municipal and institutional entities. **MCEC is proactively pursuing federal and philanthropic grant resources that could be effectively braided with the proposed Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Fund to assist nonprofit organizations with clean energy and resilience improvement measures.**

MCEC supports SB0105 with an amendment allowing the Maryland Clean Energy Center to administer this funding as intended through the Climate Catalytic Capital (C3) Fund.

SB0105 - FWA - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonp

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: FWA



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: SB 105 - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
DATE: January 15, 2025

MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Senate Bill 105 would create a revolving loan fund within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to benefit nonprofits that install renewable energy assets.

The Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program (Program) would create greater opportunities for nonprofits to finance the transition to renewable energy such as geothermal or solar energy systems. Additionally, the Program applicants can simultaneously apply for other, complimentary State and federal programs. MEA already operates the Jane E. Lawton conservation loan program (\$3 million in FY25). Lawton is offered to Maryland Nonprofit Organizations, Local Governments, Maryland Businesses, and State Agencies for the implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation improvements for existing or to-be-constructed facilities.

The Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) is the state's official "green bank", and it advances a clean energy future by making affordable, accessible technologies available to all Marylanders, in part through innovative financing options just like the program being put forth in this bill. MEA recommends amending the bill to make MCEC the administrator of the program. It may be more appropriate to place the proposed program within MCEC given its experience with financing mechanisms.

Additionally, to the extent that the Strategic Energy Investment Fund or "SEIF" is used to fund the program in the future, it is likely that that expenditure will have an impact on other MEA programs. Caution should therefore be utilized prior to committing SEIF as a funding source for any new program.

For the foregoing reasons, MEA urges the committee to transition the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program to MCEC before issuing a **favorable as amended** report. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig directly at landon.fahrig@maryland.gov or 410.931.1537.