



SB0023- GREEN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR NONPROFITS (GREEN) LOAN PROGRAM AND FUND

TESTIMONY OF BRITTANY BAKER, MARYLAND POLICY DIRECTOR, CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

HEARING DATE: JANUARY 21, 2026, AT 10:00 AM

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support** of **SB0023**, *the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations (GREEN) Loan Program and Fund*. CCAN is the first grassroots, nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to fighting climate change in the Chesapeake Bay region, with thousands of members and supporters across Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

At CCAN, we understand that solving the climate crisis and advancing justice are inseparable. The same communities hit first and worst by climate disasters—low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, and frontline workers—are the communities our nonprofit partners serve every day. Through years of grassroots organizing alongside these frontline communities and mission-driven organizations, we've identified a critical barrier: budget constraints prevent even climate-committed nonprofits from making the clean energy investments our emergency demands.

The numbers illustrate the urgency. Maryland has experienced 85 climate-related disasters since 1980, costing between \$10 and \$20 billion in recovery.¹ As climate impacts accelerate, so do energy costs—BGE customers saw bills jump \$250 annually in 2025, a 12% increase². Maryland nonprofits are caught in this problem: facing both rising demand for their services due to climate disasters and increasing consumer costs and rising operational costs that limit their capacity to respond. **SB0023** directly removes this barrier by providing nonprofits with accessible, no-interest financing for energy efficiency improvements as well as installing renewable energy systems.

Ultimately, this program is not simply about reducing operating cost, though that benefit is significant. It is about ensuring that the organizations serving Maryland's most vulnerable communities—including nonprofits working on climate justice, public health, housing stability, and disaster response—have the infrastructure resilience to continue their essential work during increasingly frequent climate emergencies. When nonprofits can upgrade aging HVAC systems, improve building efficiency, and install renewable

¹ Maryland Comptroller's Office, "State Spending Series: Climate Change Costs" (April 2025), <https://www.marylandcomptroller.gov/content/dam/mdcomp/md/reports/research/state-spending-series-climate-change-costs-april-2025.pdf>

² Maryland League of Conservation Voters, "Why Maryland's Power Bills Are Rising" (June 2025), <https://www.marylandconservation.org/2025/06/26/why-marylands-power-bills-are-rising-and-what-we-can-do-about-it>



energy systems, they reduce both their operational costs and carbon footprint while strengthening their ability to serve communities when it matters most.

We urge a favorable report on **SB0023**.

Thank you for your consideration.