



TESTIMONY FOR SB0434

Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Uses - Cooperative Housing Corporations and Condominiums (Co-Op and Condo Energy Refund Equity Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Love

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 SB0434 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.

Our members are supportive of rebates to electric consumers (particularly lower income consumers) for the high cost of electricity. In providing rebates, condo owners and co-op members get short changed because the electric company does not know what direct account to provide the rebate to. This is because residents in co-ops/condos don't usually have individual account numbers for their utilities.

This bill, if enacted, creates a mechanism for the utility companies to provide rebates to these residents. Specifically, for a member of a cooperative housing corporation or a unit owner of a condominium:

- the electric company should issue a refund or credit to the governing body of the cooperative housing corporation or the board of directors of the condominium
- the governing body of the cooperative housing corporation or the board of directors of the condominium shall distribute the refund or credit to the members of the cooperative housing corporation or unit owners of the condominium.

This is a common-sense solution that will ensure that all customers who should get a rebate actually do.

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