

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB0023-Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for
Nonprofits (GREEN) Loan Program and Fund - Establishment

Submitting: Deborah A Cohn

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 19, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony today in support of SB0023, the Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits (GREEN) Loan Program and Fund. The Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) has financial strategies (including loans) allowing it to serve as a catalyst to encourage development of clean renewable energy. Many nonprofit organizations, including many faith organizations, which typically have limited funds to support their primary goals, would like to serve as a model to their members and their communities, on how to save energy costs and improve air quality. This bill would authorize MCEC to create a revolving loan fund to support these nonprofit organizations deploy non-polluting electricity generating systems such as rooftop solar, and invest in building energy efficiency system improvements, such as repairing or replacing leaking windows and doors or replacing aging ventilation systems with more efficient air or geothermal sourced heat pumps. The bill also authorizes the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, charged with supporting deployment of non-polluting, more efficient building energy systems and renewable energy, to provide MCEC resources to create this revolving loan fund.

Maryland has consistently failed to meet its targets for solar energy generation. It also has ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its buildings sector. Many nonprofit organizations are eager to contribute to these goals but need adequate financing. SB0023 helps those organizations obtain financial resources structured to their own financial ability to help Maryland meet these state goals. For this reason I urge the Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on SB0023.