

Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment

Testimony on: SB622

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 26, 2026

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports authorizing the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) to fund building and transportation electrification as a key resource to meeting the State's climate goals and in turn urges a favorable report on SB 622.

Fuel burned in transportation accounts for approximately 37%¹ of Maryland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fuel burned in buildings accounts for approximately 16% of emissions. As Maryland works to achieve its climate goals to reduce GHG emissions by 60% (from 2006 levels) by 2031 and reach net-zero by 2045, electrification of transportation and buildings will play an important role in approaching those targets.

Maryland has already demonstrated support for reducing GHG emissions through building and transportation electrification. As called for in the 2023 Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and Governor Moore's June 2024 Executive Order 1, MDE is developing Zero Emissions Heating Equipment Standards and Clean Heat Standards that will reduce emissions from buildings as space and water heating equipment is replaced at the end of its useful life². Through various MEA incentive programs, Maryland has supported the purchase of electric cars, trucks and school buses. Moving forward, funding for electric vehicle charging equipment is becoming increasingly important to support the growing fleet of electric vehicles. The General Assembly now has the opportunity with SB 622 to further contribute to achieving Maryland's climate goals.

Maryland's SEIF generates \$600 million annually³ from the Renewable Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which collects fees when electric utilities purchase from fossil fuel generating sources and alternative compliance payments when utilities fail to purchase enough clean renewable electricity. These funds, under the SEIF, are dedicated to investment in new renewable energy, energy efficiency and bill support for low-income households. Maryland's Energy Administration (MEA) manages the SEIF. To date, the SEIF has provided only limited support for electrifying homes and transportation. SB622 will expand MEA's ability to support electrification efforts with the SEIF.

¹ Maryland's 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, presentation by Maryland Department of the Environment to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change pages 3 and 5.

² 01.01.2024.19, Leadership by State Government: Implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

³ Maryland Energy Administration, Strategic Energy Investment Fund, Activities for Fiscal 2025, Volume 1, page 66, published January 2026, <https://energy.maryland.gov/Reports/SEIF%20Vol%201%20FY25.pdf>



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In the coming years, as expanding electrification becomes increasingly central to meeting Maryland's climate goals, supporting electrification through the SEIF will become more important. The Sierra Club Maryland Chapter urges approval of SB 622 to further support electrification through the SEIF.

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