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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.

SB0223 – Maryland Energy Administration - Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program and Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026
Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Recommendation: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT REPORT

MCEC supports the intent and purpose of this legislation and is aligned in efforts to seek solutions to provide access to affordable capital for businesses, nonprofits, and government entities. The loan program offers low interest or zero interest loans to fund energy efficiency upgrades, reducing energy consumption and costs. As a state green bank, MCEC holds, manages, accounts for while investing and reinvesting funds.

The program proposed in SB0223 could be successfully and efficiently served by MCEC and aligns well with existing programs offered by the Center. As MCEC is audited independently of the state, funds must flow directly to the Center for management. MCEC respectfully requests the legislation be amended to allow the funds to flow directly to MCEC to be held, managed, invested, and reinvested as the Center invests money.

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. The Climate Catalytic Capital Fund (C3) leverages public funds to attract private capital for projects designed to mitigate the effects of climate change through greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate adaptation. **MCEC proactively pursues federal and philanthropic grant resources that could be effectively incorporated into the various programs offered through the center.**

MCEC supports SB0223 with an amendment allowing the Maryland Clean Energy Center to administer the fund while holding, managing, investing, and reinvesting the fund as intended as a statewide green bank.

MCEC urges a favorable with amendment report and thanks Chair Feldman for his leadership in sponsoring this legislation.