



Social Equity through Clean Energy
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Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
Favorable with Amendment - SB 0223
February 3, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman,

I am writing to request your favorable with amendment support for SB 0223 - Maryland Energy Administration - Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program and Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

The Climate Access Fund is a fellow statewide green bank in Maryland focused on low-income access to community solar. We are longtime partners of the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) and firmly believe in the power of flexible, recyclable capital to accelerate our state's energy efficiency and clean energy goals.

In particular, this bill is important to my organization because we believe economic growth plays a critical role in accelerating solutions to the energy-demand crisis in Maryland and is an important step toward improving energy affordability – particularly for those who can least afford the dramatic increases in energy prices we are experiencing. The State's investment in the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) supports the adoption of clean energy generation, energy efficiency measures, and innovative emerging energy technologies. Given its history and experience as a green bank, MCEC is just the right entity to implement the Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program, as provided for in SB 0223.

As an instrumentality, MCEC provides significant value to the State by supporting economic growth and energy affordability through clean energy and energy efficiency initiatives. In leveraging capital to achieve its mission, MCEC has the capability and flexibility to do what the public sector cannot, and the private sector will not. MCEC successfully facilitates partnerships and relationships to create business and employment opportunities.

Since 2009, MCEC has achieved a greater than 10-to-1 return on investment, with over \$238 million in private capital invested against just over \$23 million in public funding spent with and through MCEC. A recent analysis by BEACON at Salisbury University values MCEC's economic impact over the same period at \$621.5 million, supporting over 3,000 jobs and generating \$82.2 million in tax revenue.

For this success to continue, MCEC must have a stable, definitive commitment of revenue to help support its operation and signal to project partners and capital providers that they can predictably count on MCEC for investment transactions. This legislation calls for such a commitment, which the Climate Access Fund believes is a worthy investment for economic growth and energy affordability.

Your consideration and favorable with amendment support of SB 0223 is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lynn Heller, CEO

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