

March 23, 2026

FROM: Abigail Ulman, MPH

Senator Brian J. Feldman  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – HB1532 – The Utility Relief Act

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the committee:

As a resident of Maryland, I am writing to encourage you to remove the proposed reduction to the EmPOWER Maryland program's goals from House Bill 1532. While it's good to see that the bill preserves resources for low-and-moderate-income households, as written HB 1532 would reduce the savings target for energy efficiency rebate and incentive programs for other households by 30% -- and likely cause an even greater reduction in these programs, since the bill proposes to let solar projects in the utility's territories count towards 20% of their goals even though no new solar will be built by doing so.

Energy efficiency is extremely important to me and my neighbors. It is one of the best ways that we can help our families since it does many things at once -- reduces bills, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces strain on our electricity grid (which keeps prices lower for everyone and decreases the risk of potential blackouts). Cutting energy efficiency incentives to save money doesn't make sense when the Maryland Public Service Commission has shown that EmPOWER actually produces more than \$2 in benefits for Maryland's homes and businesses for every \$1 spent. If only every investment we made as a state had such a strong return!

EmPOWER also has a crucial role to play in supporting Maryland's businesses and workers. We need more contractors in our state who are working on efficiency and clean energy, not fewer. Slashing this program now would likely force many businesses to cut jobs, harming our state's economy and slowing down our transition to a clean energy future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Abigail Ulman, MPH  
Baltimore City, District 43A