



TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY BAKER
MARYLAND DIRECTOR

—
MIKE TIDWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SB0622- MARYLAND STRATEGIC ENERGY INVESTMENT FUND – BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION AND
TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION**
FAVORABLE
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of **SB0622**. This bill takes a straightforward but essential step: ensuring that the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) can be explicitly used to finance building and transportation electrification through loans and grants.

Maryland has set ambitious climate goals, and our existing buildings are one of the largest barriers to meeting them. Buildings account for a significant share of the state's greenhouse gas emissions, and the continued reliance on gas appliances directly harms indoor air quality, contributing to respiratory conditions. Transitioning our homes and buildings to all-electric systems is one of the most effective tools we have to simultaneously reduce GHG emissions, lower energy bills, and protect public health. Buildings directly emit 16% of Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions, making the decarbonization of our existing buildings not optional but essential to meeting the state's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2045¹.

The Maryland Energy Administration has previously requested authority to deploy SEIF funds for electrification purposes. **SB0622** answers that call by codifying it into law, giving MEA the clarity it needs to design and fund effective programs. Without this legal clarity, MEA has not been able to use SEIF money for electrification even though it is one of the best tools we have to fight climate change. This bill fixes that and allows the fund to do more for Maryland's clean energy future.

Other states have demonstrated what is possible. Washington State's Clean Energy Fund, established in 2013, has authorized more than \$144 million for capital programs covering grid modernization, transportation electrification, and clean energy deployment.² A recent round of building electrification grants totaling \$9.7 million funded projects ranging from school heat pump installations to multifamily housing upgrades with one project expected to reduce energy bills by over 30%.³ Washington's model

¹ Maryland Department of the Environment, *Climate Change Program*:
<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/Pages/index.aspx>.

² Clean Tech Alliance, *The Clean Energy Fund*: <https://www.cleantechalliance.org/the-clean-energy-fund/>

³ Washington State Department of Commerce, *Community Benefits at the Forefront of Nearly \$10 Million in Commerce Building Electrification Grants*:
<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/community-benefits-at-the-forefront-of-nearly-10-million-in-commerce-building-electricity-grants/>

shows that dedicated, flexible funding translates directly into cleaner buildings, lower costs, and healthier communities.⁴

Maryland should not fall behind. **SB0622** provides the financial foundation our electrification transition needs. We urge a favorable vote.

⁴ Sightline Institute, *Washington State Leads in Climate-Friendly Building Policies*:
<https://www.sightline.org/2024/07/31/washington-state-leads-in-climate-friendly-building-policies-for-now/>