



Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

We are the [Maryland Just Power Alliance](#) (ACT, AIM, and PATH), a multi-racial, multi-faith, nonpartisan community power organization representing tens of thousands of Maryland residents. We organize people in congregations, schools, and neighborhoods to make Maryland a better place to live and thrive.

We are asking you to pass HB1532 with **amendments** to:

- 1) Explicitly **add** mention induction stoves and heat pumps as energy and cost savings measures
- 2) **Amend** provisions for **EmPOWER** in order to increase investment in energy savings and healthy Maryland communities and
- 3) **Keep** the utility rate reform measures currently in the bill by requiring utilities to stop using spending forecasts as well as to encourage them to upgrade transmission lines before building new power lines.

In our [listening sessions last fall with over 3,000 Maryland residents](#), we asked people, “What is keeping you and your family from thriving?” One message came through loud and clear: the cost of living is rising faster than incomes—especially utility bills.

In addition, [studies have shown](#) that **gas-fueled heating and cooking release harmful pollutants** indoors, contributing to asthma and other health issues.

Replacing gas appliances with clean, efficient electric appliances like induction stoves and heat pumps **lowers utility bills** and **improves indoor air quality and health**. Maryland residents want these upgrades, but too often renters are unable to access them.

Keeping EmPOWER and adding explicit mention of induction stoves and heat pumps will give renters an opportunity to breathe clean air. Not to mention, requiring utilities to prioritize upgrading existing power lines over connecting ones coupled with stopping the use of forecasted spendings will further help keep bills down.

We are **calling on you to pass HB1532 with our suggested amendments**.

At a press conference on Thursday, February 26, over 40 of our members and coalition partners showed up in Annapolis to rally for affordable clean energy solutions. Djamila Bah, one of our tenant leaders, shared, “Funding long-term solutions like replacing my electric resistance heater with heat pumps could save me **nearly \$1,500 per year**, and could make a difference for Maryland families like mine.”

Protecting EmPOWER, investing in induction stoves and heat pumps, and holding corporate utilities accountable will help Maryland families **breathe cleaner air and lower energy costs.**

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

The Maryland Just Power Alliance