



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of House Bill 695: Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits (GREEN) Loan Program and Fund – Establishment**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

As building operations create approximately one third of greenhouse gas emissions in Howard County and in the State as a whole, we depend on robust progress in building decarbonization to meet our goals to reduce greenhouse gases by 60% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, as set forth in Howard County's June 2023 Climate Forward: Climate Action and Resiliency Plan.

Building upgrades to reduce carbon emissions, such as the installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency upgrades, save money in the long term but can have high upfront costs. This one-off financial burden is a particular challenge to nonprofit organizations.

To address this issue, HB695 would establish a Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits Loan Program within the Maryland Clean Energy Center, using Strategic Energy Investment Funds to maintain the loan program's fluidity. Howard County supports this legislation as it would enable nonprofit organizations to take advantage of the long-term savings resulting from renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. It would also help the State and counties to meet their respective climate commitments.

On behalf of Howard County, I urge the Committee's **favorable report on HB695**.

Respectfully,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive