



## Protect the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF)

Dear Chair Korman, Chair Barnes, and Members of the Committees,

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 HB1040 to **protect the Strategic Investment Fund (SEIF)** in order to invest in energy savings and healthy Maryland communities.

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.

We are **calling on you to pass HB1040**, which will protect SEIF funding for its intended purpose in future years, including allocating at least **\$100 million for heat pumps and induction stoves**.

Last Thursday, over 40 of our members and coalition partners showed up in Annapolis to rally for the protection of SEIF funds.

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.”

Using the SEIF for its intended purpose through these programs will help Maryland families **breathe cleaner air and lower energy costs**, while helping ensure that low-income communities and renters are not left behind in energy upgrades.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

**The Maryland Just Power Alliance**