



Testimony on HB 1040

Strategic Energy Investment Fund – Mandated Uses – Climate Change Programs House Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 3, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

[Maryland Climate Partners](#) strongly supports **HB 1040**, which establishes clear, time-bound allocations from the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) to programs that reduce climate-related risks while supporting energy affordability, economic stability, and long-term cost containment for the State.

Maryland Climate Partners is a coalition of environmental, faith, consumer advocacy, and social justice organizations focused on the full and equitable implementation of Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA). The coalition formed in 2021 to support the passage of bold climate legislation, and we continue to advocate for policies that ensure Maryland has the tools and resources necessary to meet its climate commitments while protecting affordability and advancing equity.

One of the coalition's 2026 priorities is supporting policies and programs that provide durable, equitable funding for climate mitigation and adaptation. Our coalition works to ensure that climate investments are fiscally responsible, aligned with statutory priorities adopted by the General Assembly, and structured to deliver long-term public value rather than short-term or fragmented outcomes.

HB 1040 directly advances this priority by bringing predictability and discipline to how SEIF resources are used over multiple fiscal years. Rather than relying on ad hoc or short-term allocations, the bill establishes a structured framework that allows state agencies, financing entities, and project partners to plan effectively and deploy capital where it can deliver sustained public benefit.

This approach is especially important as Maryland faces rising energy system costs driven by aging infrastructure, reliability needs, and long-term affordability pressures. Strategic investment in efficiency, clean energy, and resilience helps moderate those costs over time, reduces exposure to fuel price volatility, and limits future public expenditures related to emergency response and recovery.

HB 1040 also supports statutory climate and equity objectives by ensuring that SEIF investments advance emissions reduction, public health protection, and economic opportunity in a coordinated manner. Predictable funding streams are essential to ensuring that climate-related investments reach overburdened and underserved communities, consistent with Maryland law, while avoiding cost-shifting or fragmented implementation.

Importantly, this bill does not create new programs or mandates. Instead, it strengthens implementation of existing policy by aligning funding decisions with the long-term objectives already adopted by the General Assembly. Clear direction on the use of SEIF funds benefits ratepayers, taxpayers, and the State by improving accountability and investment outcomes.

HB 1040 represents a pragmatic, forward-looking refinement of Maryland's climate finance framework. It supports affordability, resilience, and economic stability while ensuring that public funds are deployed strategically and responsibly.

We strongly urge a favorable report on **HB 1040**.