



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony: [HB1040](#) - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Mandated Uses - Climate Change Programs
Hearing Date: March 3, 2026
Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stein
Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee and House Appropriations Committee
Submitting: Ruth White for Howard County Climate Action
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Committee Members,

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote an equitable clean energy future. Specifically, we have worked extensively on clean energy and on building electrification to help Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals, including net-zero emissions.

We urge you to vote favorably on **HB1040 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Mandated Uses - Climate Change Programs**. As Maryland families continue to be burdened by ever increasing utility rates, Hoco Climate Action supports legislation that helps families save money on utility bills. The MD Sierra Club estimates HB1040 will provide significant annual energy cost savings for Maryland ratepayers. HB1040 also strengthens our clean energy economy, and builds a more sustainable energy future.

Most importantly, the crucial impact of this bill is to bring discipline and predictability to how we use the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund. Instead of short-term or scattered spending, it makes strategic investments that reduce risk, save money, and strengthen our economy.

As a social justice organization we applaud the requirement in HB1040 that the SEIF continue to require that at least 40% of the SEIF spending go to low-and-moderate income households and overburdened, underserved communities.

Benefits from this bill include funds for vulnerable family upgrades to energy saving equipment that will reduce bills, and for our energy economy for the future essential for creating the jobs we need. We need a stable predictable budget to assure access to these benefits.

To be very specific the funding in this bill would be used to:

- Help families and small businesses upgrade to more efficient heating, cooling, and appliances that lower monthly energy bills
- Expand solar power, including community solar, to give more people access to affordable energy
- Support electric vehicle infrastructure and cleaner transportation to reduce fuel costs and improve air quality Increase energy efficiency, especially in low- and moderate-income households
- Build stronger, more reliable energy systems, including microgrids and resiliency hubs that keep power on during outages
- Provide rebates and support for innovation and economic development

- Upgrade school buildings to lower operating costs and improve indoor air quality
- Invest in electric school buses to reduce pollution and fuel expenses
- Support workforce training so Marylanders can access good-paying jobs
- Improve state facilities and infrastructure to reduce taxpayer costs over time

For these reasons, we **support HB1040** and recommend a **FAV** report.

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