



## HB1040

### Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Mandated Uses - Climate Change Programs

Testimony before House Energy and Transportation Committee

Hearing March 3, 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Co-Chair Guyton, and members of the committee, my name is Ruth Auerbach, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in support of HB1040, which would require that, in fiscal years 2028 through 2032, the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) is allocated to certain programs that alleviate climate change. We thank Delegate Stein for introducing this bill.

The funds in the SEIF must be used effectively to counter climate change. Climate change will have a big impact on Maryland's communities and our lives. Money that Maryland spends now is expected to save vastly more in the long term. Further, it would improve the quality of life for Marylanders.

Personally, I appreciate the plan to allocate SEIF money for induction stoves. Two years ago, I installed an efficient induction stove in my kitchen. It saves me time cooking because it heats much more quickly. While I didn't receive incentives because my old stove was electric, I had additional expenses over the cost of getting a traditional electric stove. Despite buying a relatively inexpensive induction stove from Ikea, it was hundreds more than a comparable non-induction stove. I also had to replace some of my cookware with ones that work with induction. Paying an additional cost to switch from gas to electric would be prohibitive for many people. Spending SEIF money on induction stoves would allow more households to have the opportunity to get an induction stove. Additionally, if they are replacing a gas stove, there will be health benefits as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Ruth Auerbach  
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