



# Maryland Energy Administration

**TO:** Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** MEA  
**SUBJECT:** HB 1040 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Mandated Uses - Climate Change Programs  
**DATE:** March 3, 2026

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## **MEA Position: Letter of Information**

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) appreciates the bill sponsor's intent to ensure that Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) dollars are utilized for their intended purposes. There is merit to the programs outlined in the bill, and MEA has created many of these programs of its own accord without the need for legislative direction.

Governor Moore and MEA remain committed to reaching Maryland's clean energy goals. The proposed budget reflects this commitment with a record amount of funding for clean energy and climate change work. From the SEIF alone, this year's proposed budget includes \$253 million for enhanced clean energy and energy efficiency programming, \$100 million for energy rebates for Maryland residents, \$42 million to support research centers at Maryland's four-year research universities as they transition from areas seeing federal fund reductions towards energy, resiliency, and climate-related research fields, and \$3 million in the areas of climate change mitigation and resilience.

However, there are other concerns that need to be addressed this budget cycle, and we need flexibility at a challenging time. There is a broader conversation taking place this legislative session regarding the current and future uses of the SEIF, and MEA is committed to being a partner in those ongoing efforts.

MEA would also seek continued flexibility in the shaping of its programs. Flexibility permits MEA to adapt and improve programs year over year to best serve market demand, and to adapt to market forces. This was specifically true in the face of the loss of the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) as the result of the passage of H.R. 1, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act." MEA was able to offer a mid-cycle program to overcome the loss of the ITC and continue the proliferation of residential rooftop solar installations. Without the necessary flexibility, this could not have taken place.

The Maryland Energy Administration appreciates the opportunity to provide this information and looks forward to working with the Committee on this legislation. Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at [megan.outten@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.outten@maryland.gov) or 443.842.1780.