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Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) was created as a not-for-profit corporate instrumentality of state in 2008 through an act of the Maryland General Assembly.

MCEC focuses on an economic development mission to advance the adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency products, services, and technologies with associated jobs, wages, and tax revenue for Maryland. MCEC leverages private capital and private sector capabilities; facilitates the commercialization of innovative advanced energy technologies; implements climate justice initiatives, strives to reduce energy costs for consumers, and drives reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of fossil fuels.

HB0521 – Electric Companies and Gas Companies - Customer Bill Surcharge – Repeal

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Committee: House Environment & Transportation Committee
Recommendation: UNFAVORABLE REPORT

As the statewide Greenbank, MCEC opposes the purpose and intent of this legislation that eliminates the EmPOWER surcharge on consumer utility bills. MCEC launched the Clean Energy Advantage (CEA) Loan Pilot Program in partnership with the Montgomery County Green Bank and utilities in March of 2022. This pilot loan program is funded by EmPOWER proceeds and offers zero interest loans for twenty-four (24) months to provide energy efficiency upgrades that reduce energy consumption and costs for homeowners. Since its inception, the CEA pilot loan program has issued **615 loans totaling \$6.9M, created 27,658 full-time jobs and saved 1.6M kWh annually.**

MCEC has demonstrated experience managing loan programs, including the CEA Pilot Loan Program, the Maryland Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loan program serving commercial and nonprofit entities, and the Maryland Clean Energy Capital Program (MCAP) financing projects for municipal and institutional entities. The Climate Catalytic Capital Fund (C3) leverages public funds to attract private capital for projects designed to mitigate the effects of climate change through greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate adaptation.

MCEC has proven to be an effective vehicle in efforts to achieve climate and clean energy goals for the State of Maryland. Over the past 17 years state and federal funding invested in and through MCEC have resulted in:

- **Over \$230M in leveraged private capital investment, a 10 to 1 ROI**
- **Over \$93M in project contracts awarded**
- **More than 129M kWh of energy demand reduction**
- **\$10.15M in guaranteed cost savings for consumers**
- **17,279 metric tons of CO₂ avoided**

A [comprehensive study](#) performed by the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON) at Salisbury University, measuring economic impact, tax revenue, and jobs associated with the activity and investments of MCEC, finds those investments have resulted in:

- **\$621 M in overall statewide output**
- **3000 jobs supported**
- **\$82M in tax revenue, and**
- **ROI of 2.87 to one dollar spent with the center**

EmPOWER funds support the CEA Pilot Loan Program that offers 0% interest loans for two years to assist homeowners in reducing energy consumption and cost. Repealing the customer bill surcharges on utility bills would result in the loss of this valuable program.

MCEC urges an unfavorable report and thanks Chair Korman and members of the committee for their hard work and consideration.