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February 3, 2026

**SUPPORT - HB 119 - Energy Performance Contracts – Navigators, Funding, and Requirements**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB 119 Energy Performance Contracts – Navigators, Funding, and Requirements and we thank Delegate Vogel for introducing this important bill.

This bill directs the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) to hire or contract project navigators across the state to assist state governments, counties, municipalities, universities, local school boards, and hospitals with climate and clean energy programs. The navigators would help these public bodies apply for grants, review energy efficiency measures, reduce energy costs, and establish clean energy programs.

The concept of navigators to help get assistance or negotiate complex systems to advance public goods is not new. We have seen this deployed in other sectors, including healthcare. Taking this proven model and applying it to the climate and clean energy space is a prudent use of state funds, especially as energy bills are rising.

MCEC is an appropriate home for these Navigators because it has a track record of success advancing clean energy projects since its creation in 2008, leveraging private investment and state dollars to implement climate justice initiatives, reduce energy costs for consumers, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In our experience working closely with school boards to deploy more electric school buses, the type of guidance and support from navigators can make a real difference in advancing these initiatives and helping public bodies navigate the process successfully.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this bill, and would be supportive of any clarifying sponsor amendments being introduced.