



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Bill Title: [HB1040](#) Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Mandated Uses - Climate Change Programs

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Iman Habib, Climate Policy Analyst on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am Iman Habib—Climate Policy Analyst for Progressive Maryland. We are a member-led, power-building organization advocating for working class people tackling a myriad of issues, including energy affordability and environmental justice. We have over 125,000 members across Maryland with substantial membership bases in Baltimore City, Prince George’s, Montgomery, Frederick, and Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore. Our members are highly concerned with the high cost of living, exacerbated by soaring energy bills and their effect on the state’s most vulnerable. Right now is not the time to deplete the state’s only designated climate fund—we **must protect the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF), and pass House Bill 1040** which will ensure that the SEIF has adequate funding for the next at least six years to come.

Maryland is not a stranger to the climate crisis given the heightened incidence of flood and extreme heat events; increased tidal flooding; rising sea levels; among others climate-related occurrences. Just a few weeks ago we were under an extreme cold emergency. These instances result in a higher peak load, thus raising energy usage, and subsequently, energy bills. There is no doubt that these events will only continue to rise, and when climate disaster strikes, its effects are disproportionately felt by the state’s most vulnerable. Environmental justice communities, who are often facing a multitude of economic and health issues simultaneously may be unable to prepare for or adapt to these calamities. The SEIF creates an avenue through which constituents can confront these events whether it be through cost-effective energy efficiency programs, low-income energy assistance programs, various climate rebates, or other programs administered by the Maryland Energy Administration.

Given that this bill will ensure that low-income Marylanders are not left behind by securing 35% of any additional funds collected above \$365 million annually for low and moderate income efficiency/conservation programs, **Progressive Maryland urges a favorable report on House Bill 1040.**