

Committee: Ways and Means
Testimony on: HB0087– Income Tax – Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit
Submitting: Deborah A. Cohn
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: January 29, 2026

Dear Chair Wilkins and Committee Members:

I am testifying in support of HB0087, Income Tax- Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit. I have lived in Bethesda (D16) for 40 years. My pre-school aged grandchildren and their parents also live in D16. Through them I can appreciate the high cost of basics for families with young children. They want to reduce their rising heating and cooling energy costs, but struggle to afford the investments in that would make their residences more energy efficient.

And they are not alone. Most residents are concerned about the high cost of utilities and many would struggle to afford the investments needed to make their residence more energy efficient. They are stuck: they cannot afford utility bills and they cannot afford the investments to reduce those bill.

With the federal tax credit created under the Inflation Reduction Act terminated, HB0087 creates a comparable state tax credit that would make investment in residential energy efficiency improvements attainable. I encourage this committee to give Marylanders more control over their utility bills by providing them a tax credit that will enable them to afford investments in residential energy efficiency that will lower their utility costs.

Tax credits are effectively tax expenditures. In a tight budget any tax credit needs to be scrutinized against competing expenditures. I urge this committee to favor expenditures that invest in the future of our state, our businesses, our economy and our residents, particularly those that also reduce everyday costs in utilities, housing or transportation. The energy efficient home improvement credit is one such tax expenditure. It helps struggling residents control their utility costs by investing in energy efficient upgrades to their residences. As this committee weighs difficult tradeoffs, I urge you to favor investment and as one example, urge you to issue a FAVORABLE report on HB0087.

Thank you.