

**SB0077\_IndivisibleHoCo\_FAV\_BarbaraMatheson.pdf**

Uploaded by: Deutschmann, Richard

Position: FAV



**SB0077– Energy Efficiency-Net Zero Homes-Contract Preferences  
Testimony Before Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
February 9, 2021  
Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson. I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition with over 30,000 members. We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB0077.**

**Environmental justice** demands the "fair" distribution of environmental benefits and burdens. In the state of Maryland the number one indicator of toxin placement is communities of color and low income. Life and health, safety and well-being, livelihoods and economic security are threatened. To declare that community resiliency has been achieved, we must develop systems that address needs and provide protection for our most vulnerable communities.

**SB0077 provides direct, rectifying actions to address environmental injustices and climate change.** Working directly with marginalized communities, individuals are empowered to create sustainable housing, to address systemic unfair financing practices and to empower women of color. The bill promotes housing security and ownership and supports new green jobs. Community based employment and ownership by minority women and veterans inspires and lifts marginalized neighborhoods. The creation of new, women, minority and veteran owned business helps to create new, durable business zones, lifting the quality of life in marginal neighborhoods. Net Zero housing reduces greenhouse gases, slowing climate change.



**SB0077** promotes human and environmental rights. This is an urgent moral and environmental issue. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Barbara Matheson  
Columbia, MD

**CLPP testimony SB0077.pdf**

Uploaded by: Goldberg, Donald M.

Position: FAV

**Committees: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**  
**Testimony on: SB0077 Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences**  
**Submitted by: Donald M. Goldberg, Executive Director**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Hearing Date: February 9, 2021**

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

Climate Law & Policy Project urges a favorable report on SB77

SB77 requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to give preference to applications for funding for a net-zero home from the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Fund that will use the services of small and minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses in the State in the clean energy industry, particularly businesses that provide employment for individuals trained through specified workforce development programs.

Whenever State money is used for projects and programs intended to benefit the citizens of the state, it is critically important that all State residents have an equal opportunity to receive those benefits. The Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Fund is no exception.

Maryland has a long standing commitment to assisting small, minority and women-owned firms in gaining greater access to government contracting opportunities. Indeed, Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise Program, established within the Department of Transportation in 1978, is the oldest in the country. The MBE/DBE program was established to ensure that small, minority- and women-owned firms had the opportunity to participate fully and fairly in both State and U.S. DOT federally funded projects.<sup>1</sup>

Energy efficient and net zero homes are becoming increasingly popular and are a vital part of the plan to achieve Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction targets under its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. Hence, the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Fund will play an ever more important role in the State's future, and we anticipate that the size and scope of the fund will expand accordingly.

HB77 is an important next step to continue to meet Maryland's commitment to provide equal access to all its citizens to the benefits of the State's resources.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB77.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/index.aspx?pageid=114>

# **SB 77 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Griffith, Melony

Position: FAV

**MELONY G. GRIFFITH**  
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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**February 9, 2021**

**Senate Bill 77 – Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences**

**Testimony of Senator Melony G. Griffith (Favorable)**

Good afternoon, Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. I am requesting a favorable report Senate Bill 77, also known as Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences.

Senate Bill 77 requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to give preference to applications for loans that will use the services of certain small, minority, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses. Giving further preference to loans that meet the following criteria

- Loan applications being funded by the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Fund for a net-zero homes,
- Businesses that provide employment to employees trained through workforce development programs.

Senate Bill 77 will have a meaningful impact and create more opportunities for minority business enterprises in an energy efficient future. I appreciate your consideration and a favorable report.

# **Net Zero Homes Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sevalia, Megha

Position: FAV

*Megha Sevalia*  
*Legislative Intern*  
*Office of Senator Melony G. Griffith*

**February 9, 2021**

**Senate Bill 77 - Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences**

**Testimony of Megha Sevalia (Favorable)**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. I am pleased to present Senate Bill 77, which directs additional funding opportunities to small, minority, women-owned and veteran-owned businesses in the clean energy construction industry.

SB 77:

Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to give preference to loan applications for projects that will use the services of small, minority, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses.

- Loans specifically for net-zero homes (homes that produce as much energy as they use) from the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Fund in the clean energy industry, particularly those businesses that provide employment for those trained through workforce development programs supported by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund and the Clean Energy Workforce Account.

Senate Bill 77 allows our State to continue its efforts to increase energy efficiency and support the Minority Business Enterprise program goals. This bill will not adversely affect State or local government operations or finances, but has a potentially meaningful impact on wealth and equity opportunities in Maryland. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 77. I respectfully request a favorable report.

# **SB77 - Energy Efficiency-Net-Zero Homes Contract P**

Uploaded by: Tulkin, Josh

Position: FAV



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**Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**Testimony on: SB77 – “Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences”**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: February 9, 2021**

The Maryland Sierra Club supports this legislation. The bill specifies that, in implementing the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Loan Program, the Department of Housing and Community Development will “give preference to applications that will use the services of small, minority, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses in the state in the clean energy industry.”

An integral part of efforts to address climate change and other environmental threats must be the advancement of social, economic, and racial justice. This bill takes a small but important step in that direction by including this principle in the implementation of a state energy efficiency program. This is a step the state should take, and therefore we ask that the bill be reported favorably.

Mark Posner  
Legislative Chair  
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Josh Tulkin  
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Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.