



**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
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