



TESTIMONY FOR SB0045

TAX CREDIT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES – PASSIVE HOUSING

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kramer

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Policy Foundation of Maryland, Member of Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Sarahia Benn, Executive Dir. of Policy Foundation of Maryland

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0045 on behalf of the Policy Foundation of Maryland and as a Member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Policy Foundation of Maryland is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level legislation and policies that impacts marginalized communities and veterans affairs. Environmental legislation is of massive importance to these communities particularly due to how impacted these communities have been historically and currently. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland needs to provide incentives to its citizens. Providing tax credits for upgrades for “Passive Houses” can help lower our State’s emissions. This bill creates a State income tax credit for eligible costs for energy efficiency upgrades to “Passive House” residences. Passive Houses are a voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building, which reduces the building’s emissions footprint, resulting in ultra-low buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling.

Based on energy analysis of Passive Houses between 60% and 80% energy use reductions in comparison to current Single Family residences. Maryland needs to move towards zero emissions and we believe this is a proven pathway towards it. Tax credits like this would be a great incentive to encourage Maryland residents to upgrade their homes so they can help us achieve fossil fuel independence which will help Maryland’s environment and make our State less dependent on outside energy sources that could negatively impact our economy.

We support this SB0045 and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarahia Benn

(Policy Foundation of Maryland, Member of Maryland legislative Coalition)

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(Dedicated to MLK Day)

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**