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TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB0031 – Maryland Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund
– **Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report HB 31, Delegate Charkoudian's legislation to establish a Resiliency Hub Grant Program in the Maryland Energy Administration. If passed, this legislation will take effect on October 1, 2022.

House Bill 31 expands "Resilience Hub" funding that targets microgrid development in low-income neighborhoods, develops opportunities for community ownership of solar, coordinates efforts with emergency preparedness funding, and prepares the State to accept more federal funds for these efforts. It is a forward-looking policy prescription that will benefit low-income households by providing "emergency heating, cooling; refrigeration of temperature sensitive medications; plug power for charging of cell phone and computer batteries; ventilation and emergency lighting."¹

¹ See Maryland Energy Administration, FY22 Resiliency Hub Grant Program, <https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Resiliency-Hub.aspx>.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 31.²

cc: Committee Members

² Although the Attorney General’s support for HB 31 is unequivocal and without reservation, it bears noting that the Maryland Cybersecurity Council recently published a critical infrastructure report recommending that the State “[i]nclude a formal requirement for all state funded grant recipients working on electric grid resilience or modernization to address cybersecurity risk both in the design and reporting phases of their work.” See *Cybersecurity and the Maryland Electric Grid: Findings and Recommendations for the Office of the Attorney General and the Maryland Cybersecurity Council* 9 (Dec. 2021) available online at <https://www.umgc.edu/documents/upload/cybersecurity-and-the-maryland-electric-grid.pdf>. If the Committee elects to heed this recommendation, it could do so by amending the bill as follows:

- On page 7, line 5 strike “AND”
- On page 7, line 7, strike “.” And insert “; AND”
- On page 7, line 8, insert “3. ADDRESS CYBERSECURITY IN THE DESIGN AND REPORTING PHASES OF THEIR WORK.”