



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chair  
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair  
Economic Matters Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)  
DATE: 1/31/2022  
RE: HB0031 Maryland Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub

Grant Program and Fund

### **The MLLC supports HB0031 Maryland Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0031.

According to the Population Reference Bureau the Latino population in the United States has lower levels of income and higher levels of poverty than the population at large, making it more difficult for Latinos to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Clean Energy Microgrids keep community members safe during power outages. Microgrids are localized grids that can disconnect from the traditional grid to operate autonomously. During events which compromise the grid, microgrids are essential infrastructure that provide “resiliency hubs” for Marylanders. At a minimum, Resiliency Hubs provide emergency heating and cooling; refrigeration of temperature sensitive medications; plug power for charging of cell phone and computer batteries; ventilation and emergency lighting. Sources of grid stress are varied and increasing in Maryland. They include many types of adverse events including excessive heat, ice, fallen trees, high winds and large-scale service outages.

This bill will require the Maryland Energy Administration to establish the Resiliency Hub Grant to fund the development of resilience hubs that will provide electricity during extended grid outages to low-and moderate-income households.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB0031.