



Kim Coble
Executive Director

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SUPPORT: HB31: Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB31: Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund, and we thank Delegate Charkoudian for her leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV works at the intersection of strong climate policy and environmental justice. This bill supports both of those interests.

The Maryland General Assembly has taken important steps in recent years to expand the state's commitment to expanding renewable energy and reducing our contribution to global greenhouse gas pollution. These measures, and others which will be considered this year, are important to confronting the growing threat of climate change. At the same time, however, we must address the reality of more extreme weather, as storms become more frequent and more severe.

Low and moderate income (LMI) communities are more likely to experience the impacts of these weather events; they are more regularly cut off from basic needs and services. By creating a program to direct funding that builds resiliency hubs in these communities, they will be more protected from the devastating effects of extended power outages, such as lack of refrigeration for medicine and food, heating and cooling. Through this program, the stability of emergency power relies on battery storage from renewable energy, rather than diesel-fueled generators, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, by pairing resiliency hubs with community solar, LMI households can benefit from the discounted energy rates that the community solar pilot program affords, reducing the disproportionately high energy-costs these families regularly face.

Maryland LCV strongly urges a favorable report on this important bill.