



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 31 —MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION- RESILIENCY GRANT PROGRAM  
AND FUND

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN  
FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Chair Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

Microgrids are localized grids that can disconnect from the traditional grid to operate autonomously. During events which compromise the normal 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.”<sup>1</sup>

Establishing microgrids is important because the 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, severe flooding, and other infrastructure related large-scale service outages.

Microgrids have already been constructed here in Maryland. The POWER House, located in the Perkins Homes Community of Baltimore, completed its solar plus storage array in 2017. When extreme heat caused a power outage in the area in July of 2018, POWER House was the only building in the immediate vicinity to maintain electricity.<sup>2</sup> For 72 hours during this outage, this resilience hub served as a gathering spot for community members. Many individuals used the refrigerators powered by the solar plus storage array for temperature sensitive medications and a number of seniors who depend on continuous home oxygen therapy were able to relocate to the center to maintain the functioning of their machines. The Empowerment Temple in Baltimore is another resilience hub set to start construction in 2022.

This bill would expand “Resiliency Hub” funding through the MEA, while also preparing the state to accept more federal funds for these clean energy infrastructure efforts. Focusing in low and moderate income neighborhoods, it would also develop opportunities for community ownership of the solar arrays.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 31.

<sup>1</sup> <https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Resiliency-Hub.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.maryland.gov/mea/2018/11/08/resiliency-hubs-are-an-open-invitation-to-help-neighborhoods/>