



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 31

Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund

House Economic Matters Committee

February 3, 2022

Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs

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Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports HB 31, which expands the build out of neighborhood “solar resiliency hubs” in low-income ZIP codes.

A brilliant idea, two pilots have broken ground in Baltimore City on the rooftops of Empowerment Temple and Power House.

In Louisiana, a “resiliency hub” has kept their lights on for days through three storms. Located in low-income ZIP codes, when a power outage occurs, a “solar resiliency hub” becomes a safe location and an autonomous microgrid powered by an onsite solar system combined with battery backup. During non-power events, the solar system lowers the site’s electricity bills.

In the event of a power outage, neighbors can visit the hubs and:

- Access heating and cooling;
- Power up technology (and alert loved ones of their wellbeing);
- Refrigerate medications;
- In short, stay safe and stay connected.

This legislation:

- Expands solar resiliency hub funding.
- Targets more low-income ZIP codes for build out.
- Prepares Maryland to access more federal funding.

This type of legislation is smart and proactive in preparing for the increased weather events we can all expect.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 31.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.