



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0045  
TAX CREDIT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES – PASSIVE HOUSING**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kramer

**Committee:** Budget and Tax

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0045 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill creates a State income tax credit for the eligible costs incurred for energy efficiency upgrades to “Passive House” residences. Passive Houses are a voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building, which reduces the building's emissions footprint, resulting in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling. Under HB0058, the owner of a single-family residence or a multi-family rental property can claim a tax credit equal to 10% of the total eligible costs incurred during the tax year, not to exceed \$2,000.

Because Passive Houses typically achieve between 60% and 80% energy use reductions, we believe they are a proven pathway to zero energy. We should be encouraging residents to upgrade their homes so they can help us achieve the fossil fuel independence that we so desperately need. This is a good solution.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.