



Written Testimony: **SB186: Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations  
Loan Program and Fund**  
Position: **Favorable**

January 24, 2023

To: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

On behalf of the Board, Musicians, and Staff of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), I am writing to affirm our support and request your favorable consideration of SB 186.

Designed to provide a superb concert hall befitting a world-class orchestra, the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall has been the BSO's primary home since its public opening in September 1982. The BSO has welcomed hundreds of thousands of patrons in each of the seasons that have followed; and, the Meyerhoff has served as a community and economic development resource, hosting regional performing, and presenting organizations that attract talent and tourism as well as serving as a hub for local presenters, graduations, fundraisers, and commemorations.

The BSO, together with the Baltimore Symphony Endowment Trust, owns and is financially responsible for the maintenance and modernization of the Meyerhoff. As we actively pursue critical and catalytic improvements to our now 40-year-old facility, top of mind are 1) strategic opportunities to reduce our energy footprint and in turn annual operating costs, and 2) the resources required and/or incentives available to support such initiatives without burdening operating cash flow.

The climate is changing in alarming and rapid ways with causes stemming from human behaviors, many of which are within our power to change. Now more than ever, with rising costs and a competitive philanthropic landscape, a dedicated loan fund within the Maryland Energy Administration would help nonprofits like the BSO pursue renewal energy systems and other green initiatives that while important might not otherwise be financially prioritized or possible. Such a program would not only benefit individual nonprofits, but also, support the State in our collective fight against climate change.

For these reasons, we ask the committee to give a favorable report on SB 186.

Submitted respectfully,

Allison Burr-Livingstone  
Senior Vice President & Chief Advancement Officer

[BSOMUSIC.ORG](http://BSOMUSIC.ORG)