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Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB77 – “Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 9, 2021

The Maryland Sierra Club supports this legislation. The bill specifies that, in implementing the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Loan Program, the Department of Housing and Community Development will “give preference to applications that will use the services of small, minority, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses in the state in the clean energy industry.”

An integral part of efforts to address climate change and other environmental threats must be the advancement of social, economic, and racial justice. This bill takes a small but important step in that direction by including this principle in the implementation of a state energy efficiency program. This is a step the state should take, and therefore we ask that the bill be reported favorably.

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Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.