



P.O. Box 278
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Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB186 “Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: January 25, 2023

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports SB186. This bill would create a zero-interest revolving loan program in the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to support adoption of renewable energy systems by nonprofit entities.

This bill addresses a gap in the renewable energy incentives the state offers by providing zero-interest loans with up to 90% financing for nonprofit organizations, who may not be able to take advantage of tax-based incentives to install solar panels and geothermal heat pumps.

Many nonprofit organizations are prominent in their communities, and their leadership can provide an inspiration for broader change. We appreciate the provision in the bill to prioritize applications from smaller nonprofits, those with budgets less than \$1 million.

Increased adoption of solar and geothermal renewable energy systems by nonprofit entities would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable more sectors of our state’s economy to participate in our goal of reaching zero net emissions from buildings by 2045. Reducing our state’s emissions of greenhouse gases will be most successful if all sectors of the economy participate.

SB186 supports the nonprofit sector in its participation in this effort. We urge a favorable report.

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