



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21041

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of HB 517: Clean Energy Loan Program – Remediation and Resiliency

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee,

I commend Delegate Watson for introducing House Bill 517, which would expand the authority of the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program.

House Bill 517 would help commercial businesses finance resilient infrastructure improvements and environmental remediation projects through property liens that transfer with the sale of the property. This program will give our business community additional financing options to sustain their commercial properties, reducing their energy footprint, and withstand natural disaster.

Unfortunately, Howard County is all too familiar with the importance of helping businesses fortify their buildings against potential threats. In 2016 and 2018, Ellicott City experienced two historic floods that devastated our historic town. Many businesses experienced significant losses as floodwaters heavily damaged buildings and destroyed inventory. In 2019, my Administration created the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program to provide property owners with match funding to construct flood resilience projects on their properties. More than three dozen projects were submitted for funding. The program was so popular that another round of funding was announced late last year.

If passed, HB 517 would provide another tool in the toolbox for businesses looking to make their business more resilient, which will become increasingly more important as severe weather events continue to become more frequent.

Businesses across our State are investing in critical infrastructure and system upgrades to meet COVID-19 safety protocols and respond to the effects of climate change. House Bill 517 would lower the financial cost of these actions and complement existing private-sector remediation and resilience efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report on the Clean Energy Loan Program.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive