



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Chairman

**Derrick Leon Davis**

Council Member, District 6

FEB 16 2016

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair  
Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair  
Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: SUPPORT – INCREASING MARYLAND'S RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD  
AND THE REAUTHORIZATION OF MARYLAND'S GREENHOUSE GAS  
EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT**

Dear Senator Middleton & Delegate Davis:

Climate change and hazardous air pollution threaten the health, economic security, and ecological treasures of Prince George's County. Fortunately, Maryland is a national leader when it comes to fighting climate change and creating good-paying green jobs; and, Prince George's County has been at the forefront of that effort. In 2013, the Prince George's County Council unanimously approved the Clean Renewable Energy Technology in Public Buildings law, making our county the first jurisdiction in the State of Maryland to require clean energy systems in newly constructed government buildings and major renovations of government buildings.

Good environmental policy works for our economy. Renewable energy is an important and vibrant sector of the economy in Prince George's County and throughout the rest of the State, and there is plenty of room to grow.

Maryland and Prince George's County have shown that renewable energy is a clear example of cleaner air and better health aligning with greater economic prosperity and more job opportunities. That is why we support statewide legislation to increase Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 25% by 2020 as well as legislation to reauthorize Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act. With this commitment we will be recognizing the economic, environmental, fuel diversity, and security benefits of renewable energy resources, and the very real consequences of inaction posed by climate change.

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If adopted, it is believed that a 25% RPS would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 2.7 million metric tons per year. That’s the carbon equivalent of taking 563,000 passenger vehicles off the road every year, delivering cleaner air and cleaner water. The resulting reduction in fossil-fuel use will also reduce harmful emissions into our air that endanger the health of many Marylanders. Over 5 million Marylanders live in counties that received a D or F air quality grade from the American Lung Association; and the burden of our current reliance on fossil fuels falls disproportionately on Maryland’s low-income and minority communities.

If adopted, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2016 would reauthorize and strengthen Maryland’s law requiring statewide reductions in greenhouse gases that are changing our climate and threatening our health. The Act creates the framework that lays out state actions to achieve greenhouse gas reductions. The current law, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2009, sunsets at the end 2016, and we believe it needs to be renewed.

Now is the time for Maryland to increase its commitment to this successful clean energy policy that is already delivering economic, health, and environmental gains. We respectfully request that the Prince George’s County Delegation support statewide legislation to raise Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard, and to reauthorize and extend Maryland’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act.

Regards,



Derrick L. Davis  
Chairman  
Prince George’s County Council