

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
Senate President
State House, H-107
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1924

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House, H-101
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1924

The Honorable Jim Rosapepe, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
James Senate Office Building, Room 314
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Honorable Jay Walker, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation
Lowe House Office Building, Room 207E
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
231 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1912

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Senate Education, Health and
Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: **Prince George's County Council Calling for Increase in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard**

Dear President Miller, Speaker Busch, Chair Rosapepe, Chair Walker, Chair Davis and Chair Conway:

We, the Prince George's County Council, write in support of the increase in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. We have adopted CR-7-2018 in support of increased renewable energy, which is enclosed for your reference. There is broad scientific consensus that Earth's climate is warming and this warming is being caused by human activities that cause the release of greenhouse gases due to the use of fossil fuels. Climate change has far reaching impacts, including increasing the likelihood of extreme weather events, sea level rise, flooding, drought, and mass extinctions. Scientists are warning that we are quickly approaching climate tipping points, which are unpredictable and may cause irreversible changes in our planet's climate.

Climate change can have a disproportionate and adverse impact on vulnerable populations, especially people living in environmental justice communities, people with low incomes, children, and seniors. The impact of climate change can cause damage to public parks, roads, municipal properties and equipment. Co-pollutants from burning fossil fuels create significant

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respiratory ailments and deaths. The need for the provision of basic public services such as water treatment and snow removal can increase with climate change. Resources for first responders can be strained when climate change related extreme weather events arise. Many of the costs associated with the impacts of climate change and/or mitigating those impacts will be borne by State and local governments, putting further strain on public budgets. It is less expensive to plan for and mitigate the impacts of climate change, rather than respond to emergencies when they happen. Studies show the feasibility of creating a 100% carbon free energy system, while creating jobs and improving public health.

In response to the need for an increase in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, the Prince George's County Council urges:

- The Maryland General Assembly to increase the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard to a goal of at least 50% renewable energy no later than 2030 and a further goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035; and
- The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard must only contain safe, clean generation sources such as wind, solar, and ocean tidal energy sources, not greenhouse gas emitting sources such as burning animal waste, biomass, black liquor, and municipal solid waste.

For these reasons, we urge you to make an increase in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, for the protection of our environment and the improvement of public health and welfare.

Sincerely,

Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Prince George's County Senate Delegation Members
Prince George's County House Delegation Members
Prince George's County Executive
Prince George's County Council Members
Robert J. Williams, Jr., Prince George's County Council Administrator
William M. Hunt, Prince George's County Deputy Council Administrator
Glenda R. Wilson, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Nicholas A. Majett, Chief Administrative Officer, Off