Committee: Senate Finance Committee
SB 516: Clean Energy Jobs
Position: Favorable with Amendments
Hearing Date: March 5, 2019

We urge a favorable report on SB 516 with Amendments. This bill would raise the state’ Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50 percent by 2030. It calls for 14.5 percent Maryland solar energy by 2030, and as much as 10 percent offshore wind. Those are good, ambitious targets that will support Maryland jobs and clean energy.

We urge amendments to the bill to remove all combustibles, not just incineration, but also black liquor and biomass. We do not believe that Maryland ratepayers should subsidize the burning of these energy sources as a renewable energy. These fuels are as bad for human health as the burning of coal and they contribute to climate change and global warming.

In addition, because Maryland utilities purchased about 94% of all black liquor renewable energy credits (RECs) and about 99% of all biomass RECs from out of state, this means Maryland ratepayers were paying higher rates to subsidize lower rates and dirty energy in other states.