

May 28, 2021

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 460 and House Bill 419 – *Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives*.

While I support the sponsors' intent to spur innovation in clean energy, this bill is not a prudent and responsible application of precious targeted funding. I have always supported thoughtful investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and the clean energy industry and infrastructure. This bill, however, would divert funds from existing programs with a great deal of accountability and strong records of success. Instead, those funds currently yielding positive financial and environmental results for Marylanders would be siphoned off for speculative investments in a quasi-governmental organization with little transparency to date. I believe this is a counter productive use of these funds.

Additionally, at least 60% of the funding being diverted by this bill specifically targets energy programs for many of our most vulnerable Marylanders. Studies show that investing in this population yields a high rate of return not only in a monetary form but also addresses other negative factors impacting vulnerable populations such as indoor air quality, high energy costs, and other barriers to success.

This past fall, I established the State Transparency and Accountability Reform Commission to review quasi-governmental agencies, to ensure that they operate with the highest levels of integrity and maintain the public trust. I plan on allowing the STAR Commission to complete its work to establish oversight of these entities before diverting resources that demonstrably benefit Marylanders.

For these reasons I have vetoed Senate Bill 460 & House Bill 419 – *Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives*.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor