



March 12, 2021

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

Re: HB682 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) is a 4-year-old conservation organization I co-founded after serving as Associate Director for Conservation at the White House Council on Environmental Quality from 2014-2017. At the White House CEQ, I led work on innovative conservation finance, water infrastructure investment, and a diversity of conservation issues.

We support HB682, a bill to clarify what can count as biomass under Maryland's renewable energy portfolio standard.

We understand how much renewable energy, climate and conservation policy is work in progress. New solutions and ideas are emerging all the time that create the need for legislation, allow learning to happen under that legislation, and that then inform opportunities to improve it.

Maryland's current biomass energy policies have not allowed wood-related energy from Maryland forests to yet achieve its full potential in providing a renewable fuel source for the state. This legislation contains some commonsense fixes to help ensure our working forests can do so in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Male".

Timothy Male, Executive Director
Environmental Policy Innovation Center