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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

March 30, 2021

Chair Delores G. Kelley
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB0561 – INFORMATION - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard -
Wastewater, Thermal, and Other Renewable Sources - Information**

Dear Chairman Kelley and Committee Members:

Last year, on January 30, 2020, District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (“DC Water”) filed an application with the Maryland Public Service Commission for certification as a Renewable Energy Facility (“REF”) for its Water Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant. On June 3, 2020, the Commission considered the application and heard testimony from DC Water and the Commission’s Technical Staff.

Despite the merits of DC Water’s application, the Commission had no option but to deny DC Water’s application because the thermal energy created from the biogas produced at DC Water’s facility is not listed as an eligible resource under *Public Utilities Article* §7- 701(r) or (s). The Commission explained to DC Water that a statutory change would be necessary to allow its facility to be eligible for certification as an REF. Upon review of HB 561, I find that DC Water’s particular situation would be addressed by including its thermal energy as an eligible resource under the law.

Thank you for considering this information. Please contact the Commission’s Director of Legislative Affairs Lisa Smith at (410) 336-6288 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason M. Stanek".

Jason M. Stanek
Chairman