

**ACTIVEcharge, LLC**  
**1450 S Rolling Rd**  
**Halethorpe, MD 21227**



February 9, 2021

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

Dear Senator Kelley:

**I am writing in favorable support for SB460 “Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives.”**

My name is Pranay Kohli and I am Chief Executive Officer of ACTIVEcharge. ACTIVEcharge is commercializing a wireless, self-powered sensor node that monitors the structural integrity and performance of wind turbine blades for both on-shore and off-shore turbines. Our solution lowers the costs of wind energy to the benefit of consumers and the environment. The core technology for ACTIVEcharge was developed by Professor Soobum Lee, who is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UMBC. Professor Lee and I are co-founders of the company, which is based at BWTech, a premier technology innovation incubator established by the state of Maryland and University system of Maryland on the UMBC campus.

In 2020, I participated in a Maryland Clean Energy Center program called the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator, or MEIA. This unique program accelerates the commercialization of new technologies created in Maryland-based universities and Federal Labs with the goal of creating new Maryland-based technology and manufacturing businesses that will have a positive impact on Maryland’s climate goals.

MEIA helped me in four important ways:

1. MEIA introduced me to Exelon, which operates wind generation assets. MEIA then facilitated a \$25,000 grant from Exelon to help with general operating expenses. I now meet regularly with Exelon Wind Generation to obtain feedback and advice on product features and my company’s value proposition, and I hope to launch a pilot program with Exelon soon.
2. MEIA funded the work of an Energy Executive named Erik Desrosiers, who built a detailed financial model for my business that caused me to re-think my business model and go-to-market strategy.
3. MEIA’s Summer 2020 pitch finale event exposed me to real seed investors, and MEIA continues to support my fundraising and federal grant writing efforts.

4. MEIA helped ACTIVEcharge apply for and win a Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) award.

I strongly believe that inventors such as Dr. Lee and early-stage startups like ACTIVEcharge benefit tremendously from MEIA's focus on advancing clean energy technologies. MEIA accelerated ACTIVEcharge's commercialization by providing us expert advice, by facilitating a Strategic Partnership with Exelon, and by continuing to be a partner focused on our success.

I urge you to support House Bill 419, which provides baseline funding for the Maryland Clean Energy Center so that the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator can continue to accelerate Maryland-based clean energy businesses.

**Your consideration and favorable support of HB 0419 will be much appreciated.**

Sincerely,



Pranay Kohli  
Chief Executive Officer  
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