



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mary Beth Tung, Director

TO: Members, Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB0561 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Wastewater Heating or Cooling System
DATE: March 30, 2021

MEA POSITION: FAV

House Bill 561 will allow the use of thermal energy provided by wastewater heating and cooling to qualify for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) under the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Under the bill, wastewater will be eligible to provide thermal energy in a manner similar to that of ground loop heat pumps. This novel approach will further diversify the clean energy options available to Marylanders, while helping to ensure in-state benefits.

The technology that would be eligible to produce RECs in HB561 is consistent with the goals of the RPS under PUA §7–702; helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and offsetting carbon-fueled electricity generation. For these reasons, MEA urges the committee for a **favorable report**.