



TESTIMONY FOR HB0624
Electricity - Standard Offer Service - Renewable Energy

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Brooks

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0624 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill is designed to encourage the construction of renewable energy projects in Maryland. Long term contracts are used by the utility companies to demonstrate that the energy specified in the contracts will have a market in the future. In the case of the newer, renewable energy sources, it will help them receive better financing terms because they would already have the power sold before construction begins, thus allowing those new industries to grow. Under this bill, utility companies will be required to establish long term contracts for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for at least 25% of the utilities' contract values for solar, wind, geothermal, ocean, and small hydro-electric power.

This will support the development of the clean, renewable energy sources that we need for our future.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.