

Letter of Support  
Education, Energy, and  
Environment  
2/29/2024

**House Bill 1379 – Department of General Services – Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program - Establishment**

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) supports *House Bill 1379 – Department of General Services – Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program - Establishment*. House Bill 1379 would require the Department of General Services, in consultation with the Public Service Commission, to establish a Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program. The Department would enter a contract to procure Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), collect data, and analyze the economic costs and benefits of the Pilot.

As a technical expert in natural gas operations, BGE supports this bill as it will provide more education on the benefits that RNG can bring to the region. An independent study conducted by Energy + Environmental Economics (E3) concluded that an integrated energy system is the most cost-effective path to achieve Maryland’s net zero greenhouse gas emissions goals as defined in the Climate Solutions Now Act. RNG can and should play an integral role in diversifying our energy sources so that we can maintain reliability while reducing our carbon footprint.

BGE recently interconnected an RNG plant to its gas distribution system when the plant, which is owned and operated by Bioenergy Devco and located on the Maryland Food Center Authority Campus in Jessup, became operational in 2022. This project has demonstrated the benefits RNG brings not only to the environment but also to the economy. RNG is derived from existing resources such as farm manure and food waste and is interchangeable with conventional natural gas – meaning, it can be used for electricity production, heating and cooling, industrial appliances, and transportation, while also capturing and utilizing methane which would otherwise be released to the atmosphere contributing to Maryland’s greenhouse gas emissions.

House Bill 1379 is important legislation that can aid the State’s technical understanding of renewable energy sources. BGE strongly believes the State will need an integrated energy system to maintain reliable service, achieve decarbonization, and keep energy affordable for all Marylanders. We respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1379.