



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

February 16, 2010

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chairperson
Members of the Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support, Senate Bill 515: The Renewables First Act

Dear Senator Middleton and Committee Members:

As the Chair of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, the Maryland Department of the Environment supports SB 515. This bill stresses the importance of using renewable and sustainable sources to meet the State's energy needs. In doing so this legislation supports the State's overall goal to reduce greenhouse gasses 25% by 2020. As you know, due to Maryland's extensive coastline, addressing sea level rise and climate change is critically urgent.

Although our support stems from the bill's greenhouse gas reduction benefits, we recognize that these reductions are a secondary benefit to the bill's primary purpose of meeting the State's energy conservation and sustainability goals, which we also vigorously support.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues as you review SB 515. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or lnissley@mde.state.md.us if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,

Heather Barthel

Cc: George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration
Lisa Nissley, Legislative Liaison

