



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 665**

Public School Construction and State Buildings – Use of Geothermal Energy

**DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2020**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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**The Chesapeake Bay Foundation SUPPORTS HB 665.** This bill would require all new state-funded schools install geothermal heating and cooling systems.

Geothermal energy systems are nearly four times as efficient per unit of heating or cooling delivered than a fossil fuel furnace.<sup>1</sup> It is prudent for the State to install the most energy efficient heating and cooling systems as it invests in school construction. Doing so continues Maryland's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases and provides leadership for other states and the private sector.

As geothermal energy systems do not rely on the combustion of fossil fuels, the heating and cooling they provide significantly reduce the level of greenhouse gases and nitrogen deposition to the Bay. Reducing greenhouse gases help stabilize the climate and contributes to water quality. Federal efforts to reverse progress on air pollution from incineration have increased the role states must now play in addressing the air component of the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint.

**For these reasons, CBF urges a FAVORABLE report on HB 665 from the House Appropriations Committee.** If you have any questions, please contact Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist at 443.482.2168 or [dmyers@cbf.org](mailto:dmyers@cbf.org)

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<sup>1</sup> *Efficiency and Environmental Benefits*, Energy Environmental, (last visited 2/26/2020), available at <https://www.energyhomes.org/renewable-technology/geoefficiency.html>

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