

Quaker Voice of Maryland

TO: Chair C.T. Wilson and Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Molly Finch, Quaker Voice of Maryland Steering Committee

DATE: Feb 4, 2025

Quaker Voice of Maryland, an advocacy group representing Quakers throughout Maryland, strongly supports HB398, the Abundant Affordable Clean Energy (AACE) Act.

Quakers deeply believe in the stewardship of the Earth, viewing it as a sacred gift from God. We consider it our responsibility to care for all of creation. Global climate change is real and poses huge threats to life as we know it on earth. It is vitally important, particularly at this time, that Maryland continue to make progress on and expand our clean energy goals.

The AACE Act is a comprehensive bill that has involved consultation with over 100 different organizational stakeholders. It provides a pathway forward for Maryland to meet its clean energy goals that includes the following elements:

- **Creates a clean energy program.** The AACE Act would establish a comprehensive clean program that includes battery storage (that helps address peak demand), solar, wind, and small hydro projects.
- **Makes clean energy more affordable.** The AACE Act would cap costs for clean energy programs and use data center revenue to offset energy costs.
- **Shares profits with rate payers.** The AACE Act would implement a profit-sharing model so that savings from clean energy go back to Maryland ratepayers.
- **Supports continuation of existing nuclear power.** The AACE Act would support continuation of the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plants.
- **Supports creation of well-paying local jobs.** The AACE Act would create well-paying jobs in Maryland by generating more clean power locally.

The AACE Act is important because it would help Maryland meet its climate goals while also addressing rising energy costs and rising demand for energy.

For all these reasons, Quaker Voice of Maryland strongly supports passage of HB398 and asks that members of the House Economic Matters Committee join us in that support.