



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of SB 316 Abundant, Affordable Clean Energy (AACE) Act

TO: Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate, Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
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The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland strongly supports **SB 316 - Abundant, Affordable Clean Energy (AACE) Act**.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) Values, including Interdependence (honoring the interdependent web of all existence) and Justice (where all feel welcome and can thrive). Working to mitigate, adapt to, and build resilience for climate change is central to our beliefs. The **AACE Act** aligns with both of the values by keeping energy bills lower, providing good paying jobs in Maryland and generating **clean, green and affordable energy** for Marylanders.

Maryland faces growing demand for electricity as well as rising energy costs, making it crucial to secure reliable, affordable and clean power for our future. Clean energy is now the fastest and cheapest energy source to build, offering significant cost advantages, but our current system doesn't effectively deliver these cost savings to Maryland residents. The **AACE Act** will ensure Maryland can generate in state the clean energy we need while making energy bills more affordable and the grid reliable.

Without intervention, Maryland risks facing higher energy costs and potential reliability issues as demand grows. The **AACE Act** provides a clear path to reliable, affordable clean energy while protecting ratepayers. By generating more clean power in Maryland, we reduce the need for expensive transmission lines and create local jobs. The **AACE Act's** innovative profit-sharing ensures that as clean energy becomes more profitable, the savings go back to Maryland families. This approach helps us meet our climate goals while keeping energy reliable and affordable for all Marylanders.

We urge a FAVORABLE report on **SB 316** in committee.

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