

**SB316 - SUPPORT**  
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## **SB 316 – Abundant Affordable Clean Energy – Procurement and Development (AACE Act)**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee February 13, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

I urge a favorable report on SB316, the Abundant Affordable Clean Energy – Procurement and Development (AACE) Act. Maryland faces an energy problem. Our state has steadily growing energy demand at the same time that it is committed to a goal of sourcing 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and 100% by 2035.

I am proud to have been a resident of Montgomery County for just short of 40 years. One of the things that makes me proud to be a Marylander is our state's political good sense and legislative leadership. In recent years, the burgeoning climate crisis has been a paramount concern to me, and for that reason I have long been a member of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN). Indeed, the climate crisis and what it portends for my children and others of future generations fills me with dread. I was proud of Maryland when we passed the Climate Solutions Now Act in 2022 and its clear and firm goals gave me hope.

Meeting those goals requires practical thinking and that is what the AACE provides. Among other things, it maximizes in-state generation of clean energy, making us less vulnerable to mismanagement by PJM and reduces the number of transmission lines needed to serve our grid. It creates a market for the development of energy storage capacity (i.e., batteries), installs a more effective solar subsidy process, and gives essential boosts to wind (land-based and offshore), and hydroelectric projects.

As a citizen concerned not just about the environment but also about the conditions of our working population (they are, I believe, inextricably connected), I am particularly pleased by the many provisions of the AACE that attend to the collective-bargaining rights and terms and conditions of employment of the many Marylanders who will be employed meeting our energy needs with renewable energy.

In short, the Climate Solutions Now Act mapped the route to a clean-energy future for Maryland; the AACE ensures that the roads to that future will be properly built.