



**The Maryland Department of the Environment**

**Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 434***

***Empowering New Energy Resources and Green Initiatives Toward a Zero-Emission  
(ENERGIZE) Maryland Act***

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Date:** February 20, 2025  
**From:** Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 434.

**Bill Summary**

Senate Bill 434 would rename Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as the “Clean Energy Portfolio Standard” and incorporate Tier 1 and Tier 2 renewable sources and nuclear energy. Additionally, SB 434 would establish the goal of meeting the State’s energy needs with 100% clean electricity, increase the percentage of projects that must come from eligible clean energy sources, and create a new process for nuclear energy project considerations under the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC would be required to consider project applications that include a community benefit agreement, minority business enterprise participation, and economic and environmental analyses.

**Position Rationale**

Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, which provides a comprehensive analysis of Maryland’s opportunity to address climate change while building a green economy, recognizes that the current nuclear facility in the state, Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, is important in producing an abundance of zero-emissions energy. By incorporating nuclear energy in the “Clean Energy Portfolio Standard,” the State can account for more than 80% of in-state carbon-free generation, and it allows the state's clean energy goals to immediately be increased by 25%.

SB 434 would help Maryland reach its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and encourage clean energy sources, which benefit our economy and the public health of all Marylanders.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for Senate Bill 434.