



SB0316 – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Sonia Demiray
Climate Communications Coalition
sonia@demirayink.com
202-744-2948

SB0316 – Abundant Affordable Clean Energy - Procurement and Development (AACE Act)

Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 13, 2025

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

My name is Sonia Demiray, I am the Executive Director of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, and of the MLC Climate Justice Wing. The Climate Communications Coalition supports SB0316 with amendments.

SB0316 is a comprehensive bill. Our group agrees with large parts of it, including the need for storage, strategic planning and streamlining, coordinated approaches to transmission, and upgrades of the SREC and OREC systems and we thank the sponsors for their hard work. However, we have two major concerns with the AACE:

- 1) The AACE keeps dirty energy generation sources within the Tier 1 Renewable Source of the RPS and seeks to expand the RPS. We hope that SB0010 will finally remove trash incineration from Tier 1 this year. However, we must also remove woody biomass and biogas from the RPS before we expand it. Biomass burning power plants emit 150% the CO₂ of coal plants, and 300 – 400% the carbon dioxide (CO₂) of gas plants per unit of energy produced ([Partnership for Policy Integrity](#)). Meanwhile, biogas is methane - same as regular gas- and 80 times more potent at trapping heat than CO₂ in the first 20 years after its release. Once burned, it also releases CO₂ which continues to accumulate in our atmosphere for millennia, dangerously altering our climate.
- 2) Maintaining nuclear power in the mix is a problem: while nuclear is a “zero-carbon emissions source”, mining, waste, and water discharge damage the environment. Uranium is not renewable and mining it risks contaminating the surrounding area with arsenic and radon; nuclear plants cause thermal pollution; they generate radioactive waste which remains harmful for thousands of years and we do not know what to do with; it uses enormous amounts of water; and, there is always the risk of an accident. Maryland should not expose itself to all these risks.

Thank you.

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