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February 18, 2025

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Tiffany Johnson Clark, Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: **Senate Bill 434** – Empowering New Energy Resources and Green Initiatives
Toward a Zero-Emission (ENERGIZE) Maryland Act– **Support**

The Office of Attorney General (“OAG”) respectfully urges this Committee to report favorably on **Senate Bill 434** – ENERGIZE Maryland Act. **Senate Bill 434** aims to advance Maryland’s goal of achieving zero-emission energy by bolstering clean energy portfolio standards, enhancing offshore wind and nuclear project application processes, and expanding Maryland’s clean energy sources.

Senate Bill 434 seeks to achieve Maryland’s goal of achieving 100 percent clean energy through various mechanisms. If passed the bill would annually increase the required minimum percentage of Maryland’s energy derived from clean energy sources. The bill also renames the renewable energy portfolio standard to the “Clean energy portfolio standard” and outlines what percentage of Maryland’s clean energy sources should come from Tier 1 and Tier 2 renewable energy sources.

Senate Bill 434 offers opportunities for small, minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses and investors to participate in Maryland’s clean energy industry, expanding access for Marylanders who have been historically underrepresented in the clean energy industry which is in alignment with the Attorney General’s goal to advance equity and justice for all Marylanders.

Additionally, the Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in consultation with the OAG and an approved applicant, must set clear minority business enterprises (“MBE”) participation goals and procedures for each phase of a nuclear energy generation project within six months after the project’s approval. **Senate Bill 434** also requires electricity suppliers to document the level of MBE participation in activities supporting the creation of renewable energy credits and tasks an Advisory Committee with providing recommendations to the Governor’s Administration on how to financially maximize opportunities for emerging businesses

in the State, including MBEs, to participate in clean energy. **Senate Bill 434** balances advancing Maryland's goal of achieving zero emissions while increasing Marylanders' economic opportunities in and access to the clean energy industry.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on **Senate Bill 434**.

Cc: Committee Members