



Date: February 28, 2020

Testimony of Bruce Burcat, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition
Before the House Economic Matters Committee

House Bill 363
Position: OPPOSE

I am Bruce Burcat the Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition (MAREC). I appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments to the Senate Finance Committee in opposition to House Bill 363.

MAREC is an organization representing many of the leading utility-scale wind and solar developers, including offshore wind developers, wind turbine manufacturers and public interest organizations that support the development of renewable energy in the region.

We first want to commend this Committee for its leadership in its role in helping pass the landmark Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) last year, which has put Maryland at the forefront of states battling climate change and encouraging investment in renewable energy. One of the main problems with House Bill 363, the Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES) Act, is that it would essentially amount to a major step backwards in encouraging the development of renewable energy.

HB 363 does two things that would turn the State's efforts back. First it removes the cap on hydroelectric power projects and consequently would allow out-of-state hydro certificates to flood the market in Maryland. Currently, Maryland caps projects in PJM counting towards the renewable portfolio standard to 30 MW projects. Renewable Portfolio Standards are designed to

encourage new renewable energy development. However, hydroelectric plants for the most part have been around for many years. By removing the cap, HB 363 would actually allow thousands of megawatts of out-of-state hydroelectric generation to count towards the RPS and would immediately counteract gains in new renewable generation created by the passage of the Clean Energy Jobs Act you just enacted.

Secondly, the CARES Act would explicitly allow nuclear generation produced in Maryland to count as an offset to the compliance requirements for clean and renewable energy in that bill. Again, like hydro, nuclear generation is an existing generation source and does not provide additional carbon emission reductions.

The hydro and nuclear generation provisions of CARES would set the State back from the gains it made by passing CEJA just last year. The bill would amount to a major setback to the State's efforts to combat climate change and encouraging the development of new renewable energy resources.

We respectfully request that the Committee vote to reject HB 363.