



**SB265: Clean and Renewable Energy Standard
(CARES) Finance Committee Hearing February 11th,
2020**

UNFAVORABLE

Environment Maryland is a citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. We work to protect clean air, clean water, and open space. We have thousands of members across the state and are based in Baltimore.

Maryland's reliance on polluting fuels puts our health and safety at risk. Our state energy policy must conserve more energy, use the energy we have wisely and efficiently, and rely only on sources of energy that are clean, renewable and tread lightly on our planet. SB 265 does not take the bold, progressive action that we need to mitigate climate change.

Because scientists agree that we must stop burning virtually all fossil fuels by mid-century to tackle climate change, Environment Maryland is committed to moving our state to 100% renewable energy as quickly as possible. With renewable energy prices falling and new energy-saving technologies coming on line every day, Maryland should work to obtain 100 percent of our energy from clean, renewable sources.

Since 2009, Maryland has seen an increase of 35,090% in the amount of electricity from solar, and a 550% increase in wind power production.¹ A decade ago, Maryland wasn't even on the map for solar production and now we are the 15th most productive state in terms of solar energy. The progress we've made in the last decade on renewable energy and technologies like battery storage and electric cars should give Marylanders the confidence that we can take clean energy to the next level.

¹ "Renewables on the Rise," Environment Maryland Research and Policy Center, Frontier Group. 2019. <https://environmentmaryland.org/feature/ame/renewables-rise>

However, instead of investing in truly renewable energy, this plan relies on expensive, antiquated and dangerous sources. Nuclear power plants are incredibly costly and they typically take a decade to construct. Since 2007, plans to build 30 new reactors have been announced across the U.S. All but two have been suspended, cancelled, or abandoned. It also relies on gas as a source of renewable energy, even though we know that gas is a huge emitter of greenhouse gases: the extraction, transport and distribution of “natural” gas make it nowhere near a truly renewable energy source.

We have the opportunity this session to create a better future. A future with clean air and a livable climate. A future with efficient public transit, solar power, wind turbines, and electric vehicles. We vote for an unfavorable report because we believe that this bill will not lead us to that future.

Thank you.