



March 2, 2020

Chairman Dereck E. Davis  
Maryland House Economic Matters Committee,  
House Office Building, Room 231  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Letter of Information: HB 1545 – Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the Business Network for Offshore Wind, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on the development of the US offshore wind industry and its supply chain, I am writing to bring to your attention the vital role offshore wind can fill as our State and nation transition to a clean energy economy. The International Energy Agency (IEA) published its 2019 Offshore Wind Outlook stating offshore wind could generate approximately 420,000 terawatt-hours of electricity annually –more than 18 times the current global electricity demand. The IEA also projected that by 2040 at least \$1 trillion USD will be invested in offshore wind.

In 2019, the Maryland General Assembly gave final approval to the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA). The legislation supports Maryland's offshore wind industry, with incentives for a minimum of 1,200 megawatts of ocean-based [renewable] power. As an organization that represents a utility scale ocean-based renewable power solution, we encourage the legislature to give careful consideration to supporting policy that helps transition Maryland to the new clean energy economy such as HB1545. Legislation that helps electric generation transition from fossil fuels is prudent. The legislation establishes a Fossil Fuel Transition Account designed to ensure workers and their families are not left behind in the shift to a clean energy economy is helpful as offshore wind begins to employ new workers. We believe it is important to promote clean energy advancement while ensuring no net-loss of jobs.

We appreciate this opportunity to offer the views of the Business Network on this important topic. Our members have a strong interest in helping accelerate the growth of clean energy, lowering costs and offering new opportunities for workers. We look forward to continuing to engage with the State as this discussion evolves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Burdock".

Liz Burdock  
President and CEO  
Business Network for Offshore Wind

