February 28, 2020

Delegate Lili Qi / House Economic Matters Committee

Dear Delegate Qi:

I am writing to **favorably support HB 1426** "Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives."

I am currently the Principal at genseed advisors (www.genseed.co), a consulting firm that focuses on advising start-ups in the advanced clean energy space. I'm a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park that has been involved in the clean energy space in this region for over a decade. Maryland has a history of innovation in the clean energy industry, at one point home to the largest solar panel manufacturer in the world. Maryland also has a history of exporting the innovation as other states have stepped in to support both early stage innovation and later stage deployment of the technologies.

This bill is important to me because I support the development of the advanced energy economy in Maryland, and believe that the state is making a smart investment in the Maryland Clean Energy Center as a way to encourage the successful adoption of clean energy generation, energy efficiency measures and innovative emerging energy technologies.

As an instrumentality, particularly in the area of **Technology Commercialization**, MCEC has the capability and flexibility to do what the University System of Maryland cannot. Through its new Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator program (www.mdeia.org), MCEC successfully facilitates partnerships and relationships to create new advanced clean energy businesses. This is an exciting and unique way that MCEC fuels Maryland's growth.

For this success to continue MCEC must have a stable definitive commitment of revenue to help support its operation. This legislation calls for such a commitment which I believe is a worthy investment.

Your consideration and **favorable support of HB 1426** will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ben Margolis

Principal, Genseed LLC

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