



**INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH**

*Democratizing science to protect
health and the environment*

March 6, 2020

Chairman Derek Davis
Economic Matters Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Chairman Davis:

I am writing to request your favorable support for HB 1426 “Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives.”

I have been analyzing and writing about energy issues for 50 years and have been on the Advisory Council of the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) since 2013. MCEC does excellent work in promoting an advanced energy future for Maryland and the jobs and innovation that go with it.

Maryland’s future prosperity depends in significant measure on the continuation of our progress towards an advanced energy economy – modern, efficient, clean, affordable, and resilient. We send about half of our energy expenditures out of state. One of the features of advanced energy systems is that they help keep more of those dollars within the state, with all that means for good jobs and economic development. The state is making a smart investment in the MCEC as a way to encourage the successful adoption of clean energy generation, energy efficiency measures and innovative emerging energy technologies.

MCEC provides significant value to the clean energy sector through innovative finance and technical expertise. In leveraging capital to achieve its mission, MCEC successfully facilitates partnerships and relationships to create business and employment opportunities. To date MCEC has leveraged private investment at ratio of almost 19 to 1 for every public dollar spent.

For this success to continue MCEC must have a stable, definitive commitment of revenue to help support its operation and signal to project partners and capital providers that they can predictably count on MCEC for investment transactions. This legislation calls for such a commitment, which I believe is a very sound and essential investment.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arjun Makhijani". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Arjun Makhijani, Ph.D.
President, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research