



Date: February 11, 2020

Testimony of Bruce Burcat, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition
Before the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Senate Bill 281

Position: OPPOSE Provision in Bill

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 on Senate Bill 281.

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.

To be clear, MAREC does not support or generally oppose this bill, but we have one significant concern as it relates to the provision (Section 2-115 (a) (4), page 5. starting at line 19) in the bill that permits the Public Service Commission to “evaluate any material change to a clean or renewable energy generating station” The provision goes on to list a number of instances where the Commission may trigger a review of the projects Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). We believe that this entire provision is redundant, as the Commission does already have authority over a CPCN. Our main concern with the provision is that it appears to suggest that the Commission open up a CPCN for a multitude of reasons.

When developing a project both solar and wind developers like to have some certainty in the sighting process and we just believe that this particular provision is too expansive and could lead to unnecessary review of a project having had a CPCN already granted.

The typical process today is that a developer who seeks a material change to its project would come in and file for an amendment to a CPCN. There has not been an indication that the current process needs this added statutory explanation.

We would suggest that the bill be amended to strike this provision as unnecessary.