

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: FAVORABLE SUPPORT FOR SB 160**

“Economic Development – Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit Program – Expansion and Extension”

Hello Mr. Guzzone,

My name is Andrew Wills, I am the Director of Finance at Manta Biofuel. Headquartered in an Opportunity Zone in Maryland Legislative District 11, we produce cost competitive renewable crude oil from algae. I am writing to express our support for SB 160. The passage of this bill will help us commercialize our novel renewable energy production process, and accelerate progress toward a more sustainable future.

Since our founding in 2014 through the spinout of IP from the University of Maryland, we have raised over \$4MM in investment capital from private investors as well as federal and state-level agencies. Over this time period, we have created 5 high quality sustainable jobs, and supported a number of part-time workers as well.

SB 160 expands the existing and underutilized Cybersecurity Investor Incentive Tax Credit (CIITC) program eligibility to include additional technology sectors. Clean energy technologies are a key area of technology innovation from Maryland.

This legislation will help my company raise capital by amplifying the decision of professional investors, which will allow Manta to create additional jobs in Maryland. Over the next 2 years, we intend to hire at least 5 full time employees, and significantly expand our production capacity in the State.

I am requesting your favorable support for this legislation.

Sincerely,



Andrew Wills  
Director of Finance, Manta Biofuel  
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Email: andrew@mantabiofuel.com