

February 2, 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis:

I am writing to request your favorable support for HB 0419 “Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives.”

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.

In 2020, I participated in a Maryland Clean Energy Center program called the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator (MEIA). This unique program accelerates the commercialization of new technologies created in Maryland-based universities and Federal Labs with the goal of creating new Maryland-based technology and manufacturing businesses that will have a positive impact on Maryland’s climate goals.

During my time with MEIA, program leaders Brian Toll and Ben Margolis have created immense value for our company through strategic advising, introductions to customers and key stakeholders, and through the Executive in Residence program that they administer. In addition, during our time in the accelerator, Manta Biofuel has gone on to raise over \$1 million in financing.

HB 0419 provides baseline funding for the Maryland Clean Energy Center so that the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator can continue to accelerate Maryland-based technology and manufacturing businesses.

Your consideration and favorable support of HB 0419 will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,



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