

TESTIMONY FOR HB1007
RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND GEOTHERMAL HEATING AND
COOLING SYSTEMS

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Person Submitting: Mike Tidwell, Executive Director

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1007 on behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots organization dedicated exclusively to raising awareness about the impacts and solutions associated with global warming in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Globally, we are at a critical choice point that will determine the course of our future forever. Climate change is already here, and we are the last generation that will be able to course correct towards a livable future for all. It is critical that we move away from all dirty energy sources as quickly as possible and actively promote clean renewable choices, including Geothermal.

HB 1007 would place Geothermal heating and cooling systems as a Tier 1 energy source in the Renewable Portfolio Standard, alongside wind and solar. This is common sense as Geothermal Energy is a clean, renewable energy source, unlike other Tier 1 designations such as Black Liquor and Incineration which are Renewable but not Clean.

In addition to placing Geothermal in Tier 1 of the RPS, this bill addresses environmental justice issues associated with the climate crisis by targeting geothermal to low-income housing and schools that have a large number of students who qualify for free and reduced meals. It also specifies that jobs related to geothermal must be family-sustaining jobs with health care and other benefits.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network strongly supports clean, renewable energy and believes that putting geothermal in the RPS as a Tier 1 energy source is a positive step in reducing Maryland's reliance on dirty energy.

As such, I recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.