



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 25, 2021

SUPPORT – HB1007: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters strongly supports HB1007: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems, and we thank Delegate Charkoudian for her leadership on this issue.

Over the past several years the General Assembly and this Committee have advanced the cause of Maryland's renewable energy economy, and are considering legislation this year to ensure the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard is focused on actual clean and renewable sources. Maryland LCV strongly supports these efforts in general and more specifically the investment in additional clean energy sources, including geothermal systems that utilize the constant temperature of the earth to provide clean, renewable energy. These systems have low operating costs, are non-combustible, and have efficiency greater than traditional systems, all of which make it an important addition to the renewable portfolio systems.

This legislation would create a carve-out for the geo-thermal systems, encouraging expansion of this option in existing infrastructure as well as new construction. Even more importantly than a simple investment in this technology is the structure of the investment, which has been crafted to ensure benefit to low-income individuals. Once installed, geothermal systems can recoup their cost within two to ten years, lowering the cost of both indoor heat and water heat for low-income families. The carve-out for low-income individuals may make the difference between their ability to take advantage of this clean, renewable source of energy or being left in the cold, relying on traditional fossil fuels.

For both environmental and equity reasons, Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on HB1007.