



124 South Street #3  
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February 18, 2021

GARY G. ALLEN  
President

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DON VAN HASSENT

Members of the House Economic Matters Committee  
**Favorable with HB 682-Electricity-  
RPS -Thermal Biomass systems**

February 18, 2021

Mr.. Chairman and members of the Committee

The Maryland Forestry Foundation strongly supports SB0459, the revision of the state's RPS standard to authorize the use of biomass systems fueled with qualifying biomass to be eligible for renewable energy credits. With these changes, the entire forest community can support this and further steps the make renewable biomass a part of Maryland's Clean energy future. We Think these changes are long overdue and have spoken in support of this change before you in past sessions. This past year in partnership with more than 20 organizations and three state agencies, we helped plan and present five webinars on spurring the use and defining the biomass opportunity as part of Maryland's clean energy future. A clear consensus emerged that a principal barrier to biomass consideration was the too narrow definition in state law for qualifying Biomass and Biomass energy systems. HB 682 addresses this issue. This modest Bill -hardly more than a page -corrects a significant gap in the law that makes biomass both more broadly possible and economically competitive consistent with its energy efficiency and technical appropriateness. Biomass can be an excellent choice for local combined heat and power projects. Currently, available technology can meet tough air quality standards, it can meet strong energy efficacy goals, and it is an excellent and competitive economic investment with assured supply chains. The changes with clarifying language proposed in this Bill make these goals achievable.

We trust that members will clearly see these changes as helpful and needed improvements in language and policy. The Bill helps advance an overlooked economic opportunity for an important state industry and a neglected fossil-free energy option. Only by adding biomass as an energy choice can we create both the incentives and standards necessary to transition to a sustainable future.



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January 28, 2021

GARY G. ALLEN  
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We strongly support a favorable report for HB 682 .

Respectfully,

Respectfully,  
Gary G. Allen  
President, Maryland Forestry Foundation  
[Marylandforestryfoundation.org](http://Marylandforestryfoundation.org)