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The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
231 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 682 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Thermal Biomass Systems
Comment: Support the Bill**

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee,

We have a farm in Adamstown, Maryland (Frederick County) that includes approximately 40 acres of managed forest. One of the most significant challenges we face in keeping the woodlot productive and healthy is a lack of markets. Maryland lacks markets for material from timber stand improvement practices, from dead, dying or undesirable species, and from timber harvests with reforestation objectives.

Biomass energy can provide an opportunity for better and more efficient utilization of the available wood resources we have in Maryland, while also providing a market that would benefit small woodland owners. Moreover, biomass energy can help Maryland meet its climate goals by offsetting emissions from fossil fuels and encouraging better forest management and, thereby, more carbon sequestration.

HB 682 would remove a critical barrier to the commercialization of biomass energy in the state by providing a fully-utilizable Tier 1 Thermal Renewable Energy Credit similar to what is allowed for other renewable energy sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 682. I urge the Committee to report the bill favorably.

Respectfully,

Alberto Goetzl
Dream Catcher Farm, LLC
(member, Maryland Sustainable Forestry Council)