



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 419 – Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation
Investments and Initiatives
House Economic Matters Committee
February 4, 2021**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman Davis and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 419 – Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

HB 419 really digs into the next generation of clean energy development. Instead of banning certain forms of energy without having a back-up plan to produce enough clean energy for the needs of Marylanders, the bill attacks climate change, head-on, by addressing our current lack of clean energy solutions. From investing in fuel cell technology, to grid modernization; from tidal power to nuclear; from tackling transportation to energy storage and battery technology, HB 419 is a solid step in the right direction for addressing climate change through advanced clean energy technologies.

We have an opportunity to truly invest in our future in a way that will create good paying jobs in Maryland, advance manufacturing for clean energy technologies, and set the State up to be a leader in clean energy innovation, allowing other states to follow suit. We cannot ban our way to a clean energy future. We have to invest in the new technologies, and, more importantly, the new family-sustaining jobs that can be created, to support a clean energy future in Maryland.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB 419.