



To: The Honorable Dereck Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Lily Qi

From: Gene Harrington

Date: February 2, 2021

Re: Support – HB 419 – Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and
Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives

My name is Gene Harrington, and I am the Director of Government Affairs for Food and Agriculture for the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO). I am also a lifelong Marylander, having been born in Montgomery County, raised in Prince George's County, and lived in Howard County for the last 20 years. I testify today on behalf of BIO – the world's largest trade group for the biotechnology sector – in strong support of HB 419 and respectfully urge the members of the House Economic Matters Committee to give the legislation a favorable report.

HB 419 directs the Maryland Clean Energy Innovation Institute and Maryland Clean Energy Center to support state-based technology companies engaged in clean energy innovation including businesses engaged in the production of clean fuels and biotechnology for the reduction of direct and indirect agricultural emissions. BIO applauds Delegate Qi for crafting and sponsoring HB 419 and for being a longstanding champion of the biotechnology sector in Montgomery County and throughout the state. We also encourage Delegate Qi to add "renewable chemical production" to the definition of "advanced clean energy technology," so that entities engaged in such work – which will allow us to replace petroleum-based containers and packaging - can be eligible for support from the Institute and Center.

Two subsectors of the biotechnology industry - research, testing and medical labs and drugs and pharmaceutical – have especially deep footprints in Maryland. (According to 2020 BIO/TEconomy jobs report, Maryland's biotechnology industry is comprised of 2,483 entities, employing 39,710 people, with an average annual salary of \$118,664.) Montgomery County's technology corridor exemplifies these deep roots. HB 419 builds on the work the state has done to attract and keep those businesses by extending assistance to entrepreneurs in the agriculture and environmental biotechnology spaces. These incentives will hopefully help biotechnology businesses get established in other parts of the state such as Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

Thank you for your time and attention and please support HB 419 and give the measure a favorable report.

