



Maryland Arborist Association, Inc.

Danielle Bauer Farace
Executive Director

HB 0682 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Thermal Biomass Systems

Committee: Economic Matters

Date: February 16, 2021

MAA Position: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

The Maryland Arborist Association, Inc. (MAA) works to promote education in the field of arboriculture, to support the success of arborists and to promote the importance of tree care. Arborists (also known as Licensed Tree Experts) practicing tree care in the state of Maryland are often seeking for an outlet to dispose of brush and wood waste.

The definitional amendment offered by the Association of Forest Industries and Maryland Forest Association, clarifying the definition of “qualifying biomass” in HB 0682 will assist in providing a market for arborists to dispose of brush and wood waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

With the closure of sawmills, specifically in Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore, arborists have had to find alternative disposal avenues, such as landfills, to dispose of brush and wood waste. Passage of this bill will create a sustainable market for the byproducts of tree care work.

MAA requests your favorable report on HB 0682 with the suggested amendment from the Association of Forest Industries and Maryland Forest Association.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bauer Farace
Executive Director