



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0810  
RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND GEOTHERMAL HEATING AND  
COOLING SYSTEMS**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Feldman

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0810 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a mess. We currently consider black liquor and incineration as Tier 1 energy sources, and although they clearly meet the requirement of Renewable, they do not in any way meet the requirement of being Clean Energy. Geothermal is different. It is Clean, Renewable energy, and should be added as a Tier 1 energy source to the RPS.

This bill would make a place for Geothermal heating and cooling systems as a Tier 1 energy source, alongside of wind and solar. Not only does this make sense, but this bill goes further in targeting geothermal to low-income housing and schools that have a large number of students who qualify for free and reduced meals. Finally, it also specifies that jobs related to geothermal must be family-sustaining jobs with health care and other benefits.

Our members strongly support clean, renewable energy and we believe that putting geothermal in the RPS as a Tier 1 energy source is a positive step in reducing Maryland's reliance on dirty energy.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.