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Suite 102  
College Park, MD 20740

**Committee: Finance**

**Testimony on: SB53 “Clean Energy Attribute Credits and Procurement”**

**Position: Oppose**

**Hearing Date: January 26, 2021, 2021**

The Maryland Sierra Club opposes this legislation and urges an unfavorable report. The bill would substantially, and negatively, reformulate Maryland’s clean energy programs by repealing Maryland’s longstanding Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), replacing it with what the bill calls a “Clean Energy Attribute Credit Standard.”

We appreciate the sponsor’s commitment to confronting the climate crisis, as is clear through much of the text of the bill. However, the bill would set aside the decades-long clean energy work of the General Assembly, and destabilize the energy framework established by the RPS and the predictability of that proven system. It was just two years ago that the Maryland General Assembly enacted the Clean Energy Jobs Act to reaffirm the key role played by the RPS, and significantly expand that program. The enactment of the RPS, and the several updates since enactment, have enabled Maryland to make important strides toward addressing climate change.

Notably, this legislation would allow fossil fuel facilities to qualify as clean energy under the proposed policy structure. Fossil fuels are not clean and should not qualify to receive incentives granted to clean, renewable sources such as wind and solar, in order for Maryland to continue its efforts to mitigate climate change.

We urge an unfavorable report.

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Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.