



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mary Beth Tung, Director

TO: Members, Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: SB0316 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Hydroelectric Power
DATE: January 21, 2021

MEA POSITION: FAV

The proposed legislation indefinitely extends the applicability of Tier 2 renewable sources within Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Governor Hogan has promoted a more technology-inclusive approach when it comes to promoting clean energy; an “all-of-the-above” approach. Senate Bill 316 is a step in the right direction, recognizing the benefit of carbon-free electricity generation provided by certain hydroelectric resources.

MEA notes that a more technology-inclusive approach promotes competition to produce, and increases the available supply of, renewable energy credits (RECs). This leads to lower costs of compliance for the RPS programs. Because the cost of RPS compliance is ultimately borne by ratepayers, this in turn helps suppress the overall ratepayer impact of the program, while still offering the same carbon-free benefits.

For these reasons, MEA urges a **favorable report** for SB 316.