



**Maryland Joint
Legislative Committee**

March 9, 2021

The Voice of Merit Construction

Mike Henderson
*President
Greater Baltimore Chapter
mhenderson@abcbaltimore.org*

Chris Garvey
*President & CEO
Chesapeake Shores Chapter
cgarvey@abc-chesapeake.org*

Debra D. Livingston CAE
*President & CEO
Metro Washington Chapter
dlivingston@abcmetrowashington.org*

Amos McCoy
*President & CEO
Cumberland Valley Chapter
amos@abccvc.com*

Mark McDaniel
*Chairman
Joint Legislative Committee
mmcdaniel@nlpentinc.com*

Marcus Jackson
*Director of Government Affairs
Metro Washington Chapter
mjackson@abcmetrowashington.org*

Additional representation by:
Harris Jones & Malone, LLC

6901 Muirkirk Meadows Drive
Suite F
Beltsville, MD 20705
(T) (301) 595-9711
(F) (301) 595-9718

TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
RE: S.B. 810 – RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND GEOTHERMAL HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS
POSITION: OPPOSE

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) opposes S.B. 810 which is before you today for consideration. The intent of the bill is good. Reducing utility cost for low income residents and facilities which serves low income areas by increasing Geothermal system installations, the method is not good. It puts the onus on the resident or building owner to identify and complete paperwork to get a rebate/discount on electricity cost.

To get more systems installed tax rebates/credits, other incentives have to be made at the development stage and go to the developer. These systems are not installed because they are very expensive and have a very long ROI. If we incentivize the installation of high efficiency systems, (geothermal and others, including: windows, doors, insulation and roofing as well) in a low income development, the residents will see the return every month in their utility bills.

With that in mind, we suggest the following amendments to S.B. 810:

Page 3
line 18 – Strike - government should be;

Line 19 – If the system produces electricity production beyond consumption should feed the grid and spin the meter backwards and the market energy credits paid to the consumer. Without this costly battery storage systems are required which is another disincentive at the development stage.

Page 6
Line 2 – 28% is about a 30% annual increase and all other years are about 10% increases.

Page 10
Line 13 – 360,000 btu capacity is a 3 ton system which is a small residential system, why is that the specified capacity
Line 20 – define “Affordable”
Line 23 – define “Fair Scheduling”
Line 28 – Strike - all employees in Maryland already have the right to bargain collectively for wages and benefits and the means and methods are well defined in the labor laws

Page 16
Line 27 – add “at least two representatives of independent industry trade associations.”

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC business members in Maryland, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on S.B. 810.

Marcus Jackson, Director,
Government Affairs