



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 683

Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program

Date: March 2, 2022

Position: **Support**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

From: Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 683. This legislation establishes a Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and requires the Governor to include an appropriation of \$5.0 million in the annual State budget bill for each of fiscal 2024 through 2026 to fund the program.

Nimble Nonprofits Could Be Renewable Energy Influencers

SB 683 will provide opportunities to Maryland's nonprofits to adopt renewable energy technology, reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Many Maryland nonprofits may relatively readily adopt renewable energies for their buildings to align with their values and missions. These nonprofits, many of which have a broad base of Maryland members and work with the public and private sectors, may serve as an example to other private businesses in Maryland and be an inspiration to their members and the public. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Philip Merrill Center in Annapolis is the world's first LEED Platinum building.

Renewable Energy Adoption Will Accelerate Greenhouse Gas Reduction in Maryland

Atmospheric deposition of nitrogen is the highest nitrogen input load in the Chesapeake Bay. Nitrogen pollution feeds algal blooms that block sunlight to underwater grasses and suck up life supporting oxygen when they die and decompose. The principal source of oxidized nitrogen, also called NOx, is produced by machines or processes that are powered by gas, coal or oil, like the heating of a building.¹ According to the U.N. climate science panel, man-made carbon dioxide emissions need to fall by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 to prevent catastrophic environmental consequences.²

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 683. For more information, contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at 443.995.8753 and rclark@cbf.org

¹ Chesapeake Bay Program, [Air Pollution: What airborne pollutants are affecting Bay health?](#)

² Rowling Megan, [Net-Zero emissions: What it is and why does it matter so much?](#), World Economic Forum, Sept. 23, 2020.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513