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HB 1366 Zero-Emission Energy Resources and Carbon Capture, Use, and Sequestration – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Study

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Position: Not Supportive as Written

Clean Air Task Force (CATF) supports the carbon capture study proposed in HB 1366.

State policies to incentivize emerging clean technologies, such as carbon capture and storage (CCS), advanced nuclear, and zero-carbon fuels are critically important but should not necessarily be included as Tier 1 renewable energy portfolio standards without constraints, as intended in HB 1366 for CCS.

CATF supports the inclusion of CCS technology as a greenhouse gas emission reduction measure within Maryland's energy and climate strategy. CCS technology supports the ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from hard-to-abate industries (e.g., cement), the expansion of clean firm power for the maintenance of grid stability, and is a key piece of a low-cost, fully decarbonized electric system.

CATF notes that state support for CCS and other emerging technologies (e.g., advanced nuclear) are critical to the successful growth and implementation of these technologies. Strong state support for these technologies is also critical for meeting the 2045 net-zero greenhouse gas emissions goals of HB 708, which will require a strategy for deploying an "all-of-the-above" suite of clean energy technologies. These emerging technologies will likely be necessary to achieve deep decarbonization at least cost.¹

Additionally, CATF notes the importance of state leadership for developing regulatory considerations and identifying statutory impediments related to the adoption of CCS in Maryland. A robust regulatory and policy framework to support the deployment of CCS and provide appropriate guardrails must be developed in a coordinated fashion by appropriate and knowledgeable State entities.

CATF is open and willing to provide further expertise to assist in any future planning regarding CCS technology.

Please reach out to Angela Seligman (email: aseligman@catf.us, cell: 314.922.5293) with any questions.

¹ https://www.vibrantcleanenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/US-Econ-Decarb_CCSA.pdf See also: Net Zero America Project Report (https://netzeroamerica.princeton.edu/img/Princeton_NZA_Interim_Report_15_Dec_2020_FINAL.pdf) and Decarb America "Pathways to Net-Zero Emissions" (<https://decarbamerica.org/report/pathways-to-net-zero-emissions/>)

CATF is a global nonprofit organization working to safeguard against the worst impacts of climate change by catalyzing the rapid development and deployment of low-carbon energy and other climate-protecting technologies. With 25 years of internationally recognized expertise on climate policy and a fierce commitment to exploring all potential solutions, CATF is a pragmatic, non-ideological advocacy group with the bold ideas needed to address climate change. CATF has offices in Boston, Washington D.C., and Brussels, with staff working virtually around the world.