



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1331

Coal Ash – Use, Recycling, and Management (Coal Ash Recycling Act of 2022)

Date: March 11, 2022

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1331, which would require the use of coal ash in certain concrete materials including those used as a support base for offshore wind energy turbines.

CBF applauds the safe re-use of a waste product to formulate useful products. We have reviewed the science of coal ash as an ingredient in concrete mixes and have determined doing so produces minimal risk to the marine environment from such uses. As the definition of coal ash limits it to that which is derived from coal burning in the state and Maryland's remaining coal fired power plants are phasing out, the provisions in this bill are not construed to perpetuate the burning of coal for energy production in Maryland.

In fact, by using the remaining stockpiles of coal ash, risk of catastrophic water pollution is avoided from uncontrolled releases like those documented in both Virginia and North Carolina. It is both practical and poetic, that the preference for use of coal ash-derived concrete in the support structures for offshore wind generation towers signals Maryland's commitment to the transition from fossil fuel to renewable sources of energy. CBF believes this bill sets the foundation for a cleaner energy future.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1331. For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.