

March 10, 2023

Delegate Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Barnes:

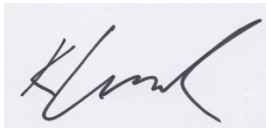
I am writing to request your favorable support for HB 0911 “Maryland Clean Energy Center - Climate Technology Founder's Fund - Establishment.”

I am currently an Associate Research Scientist at the University of Maryland. I am also enrolled in the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator (MEIA) and recently launched an advanced solid-state battery start-up company called Ionic Devices. This would not have been possible without the education and funding provided by MEIA.

When our business graduates from the MEIA program, it will have immediate needs for non-restricted capital. The MCEC Climate Technology Founder's Fund, which requires a one-to-one match, will invest non-restricted capital into MEIA graduates for such uses as: to assist with starting operations, to secure patent rights, to cover fundraising costs, and other uses. A small, strategic investment, made quickly and at the right time, will make a huge difference towards enabling us to obtain both non-dilutive (SBIR) and dilutive (venture) capital, and help Maryland attain our climate and economic development goals.

This legislation provides baseline funding for the Climate Technology Founder's Fund administered by the Maryland Clean Energy Center. **Your consideration and favorable support of HB 0911 will be much appreciated.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Gregorczyk', is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Keith Gregorczyk
Associate Research
Scientist
kgregorc@umd.edu