



**Maryland PIRG**

**SB781: POWER Act  
Education, Energy, and the Environment  
March 7, 2023  
FAVORABLE**

*Maryland PIRG is a state based, small donor funded public interest advocacy organization with grassroots members across the state. We work to find common ground around common sense solutions that will help ensure a healthier, safer, more secure future*

*Environment Maryland is a citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. We work to protect clean air, clean water, and open space.*

**Maryland PIRG and Environment Maryland are pleased to support SB781.**

Wind technology is advanced, affordable and proven. Wind power prices are steadily dropping. America produced enough wind energy in 2021 to power 35 million homes, and we're just getting started.

Maryland has ample potential to harness offshore wind's power. According to Environment Maryland Research and Policy Centers' 2021 report [Offshore Wind for America](#), Maryland has the technical potential to generate 96.3 Terawatt hours (Twh) from offshore wind power, which would generate 159% of the 2019 electric sales in the state.

The POWER Act sets Maryland up to be a leader in offshore wind by making necessary upgrades to our grid, setting an ambitious goal of 8.5 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2031, strengthening labor standards, and building another gigawatt of offshore wind in existing lease areas.

Offshore wind generation is critical to reach our goals of transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy for the state to help lower utility bills, protect our families from harmful air pollution, and reduce climate emissions.

**We respectfully request a favorable report.**