



**HoCoClimateAction.org**  
Howard County, Maryland

**HB793/SB781: Offshore Wind Energy – State Goals and Procurement (Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act)**

**Hearing Date:** Mar. 6, 2023

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegates Charkoudian, Amprey, Barve, Boafu, Boyce, Cullison, Fennell, Fraser-Hidalgo, Jackson, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, R. Lewis, Love, Moon, Pruski, Qi, Queen, Reznik, Rogers, Stewart, Turner, Valderrama, and Wilkins

**Committee:** Economic Matters

**Submitting:** Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action

**Position:** Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

HoCo Climate Action enthusiastically supports HB793/SB781, the Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources (POWER) Act. This bill will build essential transmission infrastructure for increased offshore wind energy, including more wind turbines, while protecting ratepayers and strengthening labor standards. It is critical to bring union jobs to Maryland, improve public health outcomes, and lower energy costs for Marylanders. Our group spent three years attending rallies, lobbying to promote the Offshore Wind Act of 2013, so this bill is very important to us as we have been waiting 10 years for the first turbine to be built.

In 2022, Maryland passed the Climate Solutions Now Act, which sets ambitious goals for climate pollution reduction (60% reduction by 2031). Additionally, Maryland has a renewable energy goal of 50% by 2030, including at least 1200 MW of offshore wind, set by the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019. In order to meet those goals, we must prioritize the rapid deployment of renewable energy and investments in infrastructure to support that transition. This bill sets a goal for Maryland to achieve a total of 8.5 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2031. Additional provision call for:

- Strengthening labor standards for manufacturing, assembling, operating and maintaining offshore wind turbines and their components
- Ensuring that communities benefit from offshore wind and transmission projects while maximizing the creation of family-sustaining union job
- Building additional offshore wind turbines in existing Atlantic lease areas without impacting ratepayer costs.

Enacting these measures will help establish Maryland as the epicenter for the clean-energy economy -- increasing jobs and manufacturing while reducing energy costs, health risks and our carbon pollution.

We urge a favorable report for HB793/SB781, the POWER Act

Howard County Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee

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