

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

March 7, 2023

Delegate and Committee Chair C.T. Wilson
Delegate and Committee Vice Chair Brian M. Crosby
Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

RE: **Support** for HB0718, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources -
Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

We are writing in support of HB0718, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic, and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of HB0718. Baltimore's 2019 Sustainability Plan's Energy section calls for higher standards for Maryland's RPS (Strategy 2, Action 2). With the growth of renewable and clean energy sources in Maryland, the inclusion of biomass in our RPS does not align with our Sustainability Plan's clean air targets, nor the targets of other national, regional, or state documents and laws. This bill would disincentivize harmful pollutants that impact marginalized communities.

We urge the Committee to support HB0718.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Vaughn Stewart