



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **HB 511**

TITLE: **Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Solar Energy -
Compliance Fees**

SPONSOR: **Delegate Queen**

COMMITTEE: **Economic Matters**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 16, 2023**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** HB 511 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Solar Energy - Compliance Fees. This legislation would hold compliance fees at \$0.06 per kilowatt hour for electricity providers that do not meet legally-required levels of solar power within their portfolio, as outlined with the State’s Renewable Portfolio Standard beyond 2024.

Maryland’s renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) requires energy suppliers to increase the percentage of their energy portfolio that is derived from renewable energy, including solar and wind, in order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with fossil fuels and global climate change. For energy suppliers who do not meet the renewable portfolio standard obligation, an alternative compliance payment must be submitted for every kilowatt-hour of shortfall. To incentivize the development of solar energy, a “carve-out” within the RPS was created, and a higher alternative compliance payment set that ramped down over time to \$0.025 by 2030 and beyond.

HB 511 would extend a new floor of \$0.06 per kilowatt hour beyond 2024, maintaining a critical disincentive for electricity suppliers to meet their renewable portfolio standard obligations by simply paying a fee. Baltimore County supports this bill as an important tool in driving greater solar development and reducing the harmful impacts on continued reliance on polluting fossil fuels. Maryland’s RPS is no longer novel, and the time has come to do all we can to transition to cleaner, renewable fuels for our electricity and transportation needs.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 511. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.