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**SUPPORT: SB 697 - Energy Storage – Targets and Maryland Energy Storage Program
– Establishment**

Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB 697 establishing a statewide energy storage program, and we thank Senator Augustine for his leadership on this issue.

This bill directs the Public Service Commission to establish a Maryland Energy Storage Program, to be able to reach a minimum of 3,000 megawatts of energy storage by the end of delivery year 2033.

Energy storage is an important component of a clean energy future , and thus far underutilized in Maryland. Although wind and solar are both increasingly more reliable at generating electricity under myriad conditions¹, greatly increased deployment of storage facilities will be needed to supplement these renewable sources of generation. Storage will allow for surplus electricity generated during optimal or near-optimal conditions to be allotted during times of low generation, and thus ensure continuous power delivery. By combining storage with renewable generation, electric grids can reap the numerous environmental benefits of renewables, while controlling for the reliability and continuous deliverability concerns of using renewables for base load generation. Importantly, this program will help meet a goal of 100% clean energy generation in Maryland by 2035.

We strongly urge a favorable report on SB 697.

¹ https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_6_07_b