



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.:**            **SB 781**

**TITLE:**                Offshore Wind Energy – State Goals and Procurement  
(Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act)

**SPONSOR:**            Senator Hester

**COMMITTEE:**        Education, Energy, and the Environment

**POSITION:**           **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                March 6, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB 781 - Offshore Wind Energy – State Goals and Procurement (Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act). This legislation would aid the expansion of offshore wind energy capacity in Maryland, benefitting both our environment and the State’s economy.

The emerging offshore wind industry has projected as many as 1,000 jobs in Baltimore County over the projected lifespans of currently authorized projects. Both companies with authorized capacity are investing in Eastern Baltimore County to create critical components for offshore wind that will serve much of the East Coast, providing significant opportunities for local businesses in the Baltimore Region. Since the announcement of these projects, Baltimore County has worked tirelessly to partner with career development resources to develop a skilled local workforce.

Wind energy will be a critical component of meeting Maryland’s Renewal Portfolio Standard (RPS) and statewide commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. House Bill 793 supports the expansion of offshore wind development projects in Maryland, up to 8,500 megawatts of capacity. The bill provides for workforce development, training, and the right of workers in the growing State industry to organize, while also establishing preferences for local workers and domestic materials. Furthermore, the bill would require the Public Service Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Energy Administration and PJM Interconnection, to conduct an analysis of transmission system expansion options that will better support expanding offshore wind development.

Baltimore County believes that offshore wind represents a real opportunity for meeting the energy demands of the State and Region, in a way that benefits the environmental and our economy. In addition to new investments from the state and federal governments supporting offshore wind development,

Baltimore County supports SB 781's additional efforts to ensure this industry creates well-paying, skilled jobs, and supports communities.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 781. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).