



March 7, 2023

SB 781: Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act

Education, Energy & Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of Advanced Energy United, we respectfully urge a favorable vote on SB 781 Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act, especially because of the bill's provisions related to strengthening and expanding transmission infrastructure. We thank Senator Hester for her leadership on this bill.

Advanced Energy United is a national industry association that represents the full range of advanced energy technologies and services, ranging from solar companies and electric vehicle manufacturers, to energy efficiency companies, transmission developers and more. We advocate for policies that allow our member companies to compete to repower our economy with 100% clean energy. We work with decision makers at every level of government as well as regulators of energy markets to achieve this goal. The businesses we represent are lowering consumer costs, creating millions of new jobs, and providing the full range of clean, efficient, and reliable energy and transportation solutions.

Currently, Maryland is not on track to meet its clean energy goals in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). We need to prioritize the deployment of renewable energy, such as offshore wind, as well as the strengthening and buildout of transmission infrastructure. This infrastructure is vital as we work to ensure a reliable and interconnected clean energy grid. Both rapid deployment of clean energy and transmission investment are crucial as Maryland works to get back on the path to meeting its clean energy goals.

Investing in our offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure in Maryland and across the Eastern US will ensure that power produced by wind and solar farms can reach our homes and businesses where it's needed. But investing in transmission infrastructure will also create jobs, improve the resiliency and reliability of our electric grid, and deliver enormous savings for consumers. In fact, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid estimates that in the Eastern US alone, expanding and modernizing the transmission grid would unleash up to \$7.8 trillion in investment and generate more than 6 million net new jobs, primarily in rural areas.

The Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act is crucial to developing a more competitive renewable energy structure in Maryland that delivers reduced energy costs, new job opportunities, and a resilient energy infrastructure for years to come. We ask for your support of SB 781 and look forward to working together to help Maryland achieve its clean energy goals.

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