



**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB781**  
**Offshore Wind Energy – State Goals and Procurement**  
**(Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act)**  
Senate - Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
Jose Coronado-Flores , On Behalf of CASA

March 7th, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB781 - Offshore Wind Energy – State Goals and Procurement (Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act)**. CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 120,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families.

SB781 is important legislation that will address the need for large-scale clean and renewable energy in Maryland. In particular, CASA is invested in seeing this bill pass because of the positive impact an offshore wind project will have on mitigating climate change globally and the immense amount of electricity that will be fed into the electrical grid.

Many of our members immigrate from countries near or along the equator in Latin America and Africa. This particular region is and will continue receiving the worst of climate change. In the Central American Dry Corridor, crops and agriculture are failing due to rising temperatures, changing weather patterns, and severe weather. In order to limit even greater climate catastrophe, the world needs to depart from burning fuels for energy. This bill directly promotes sustainable and clean energy in Maryland and reduces Maryland's impact on the changing climate.

Secondly, our members populate some of the polluted areas in Maryland, and the pollution to which they are exposed, in some cases, is a result of either waste-to-energy production or fossil fuel infrastructure in their own dwellings. At the county level, CASA is fighting for the electrification of new construction and widespread electric retrofitting in multifamily residential buildings. A common rebuttal to electrification legislation is whether or not the grid can handle increased electricity demand. This bill will make sure that the state's grid will be able to handle these emission reducing campaigns. Lastly, as long as Maryland does not have abundant large-scale renewable energy projects, then energy sources like trash incineration will continue to thrive. Both of these points pivot on the idea that our members' communities need reductions in exposure to fossil fuel pollution.

In conclusion, SB781 will contribute to Maryland's commitment to mitigate climate change, fortify and grow our current electrical grid's power, reduce local pollution, and provide the necessary infrastructure for an all electric state. CASA urges a favorable report.

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