



**Hearing Date: March 7, 2023**

**Betsy Singer, Laura Salganik, Co-Chairs**

**TESTIMONY ON SB781 – POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Offshore Wind Energy – State Goals and Procurement**  
**(Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act)**

**To: Chair Feldman and Members, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**From: The Jewish Community Relations Council, Howard County, MD (JCRC)**  
**Betsy Singer, Laura Salganik, Co-chairs**

**The JCRC of Howard County is submitting this testimony in support of SB781, Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act.**

The JCRC represents the approximately 25,000 Jews throughout Howard County. The Torah tells us in Deuteronomy 20:19 that we shall not destroy Earth's resources that benefit humans, even in times of war. We are compelled to act to prevent massive changes to the Earth's climate as we face rising temperatures due to excessive carbon, methane and other greenhouse gases trapped in Earth's atmosphere. Promoting the development of clean energy, such as wind power, is essential in the world-wide effort to fight the climate crisis.

SB781 is critical to accomplishing the goals of the Climate Solutions Act of 2022 in Maryland. This bill sets Maryland up to be a leader in the clean energy future of offshore wind by authorizing a strategy for necessary upgrades to our electricity grid, building more offshore wind turbines and accomplishing an ambitious goal of 8.5 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2031.

This commitment will solidify Maryland as a growth center in the U.S. offshore wind industry. Passage of SB781 would ensure that the Public Service Commission would issue an RFP to enhance the shared transmission infrastructure that all future offshore wind projects could plug into. Offshore wind development for Maryland would become a source of strong labor standards for the well-paying jobs required for the construction of offshore wind turbines and lead to lower energy costs if guided by the Department of General Services Power Purchase Agreements.

Currently, offshore wind developers are investigating additional east coast sites for the long-term offshore wind industry. SB781 is timely and essential to Maryland's future competitiveness. The people of Maryland deserve the opportunity to engage in this industry for the future of good jobs, clean energy, and the future of our planet.