



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 781

DATE: March 7, 2023

SPONSOR: Senator Hester, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

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

Wind power is a clean, renewable, domestic resource poised to play a critical role in powering our economy, creating jobs in Maryland, improving public health, and achieving our climate goals.

Offshore wind offers a major opportunity to bring more renewable energy onto the grid, while minimizing conflicts with forest and agricultural land uses. Wind lease areas have been identified, and four offshore wind projects are currently under development off the coast of Maryland in the Atlantic Ocean.

This bill will lay critical groundwork for major additional offshore wind development to help meet Maryland's renewable energy needs. It will reduce barriers to accelerate the development of new offshore wind projects. It will require the Public Service Commission to explore options and seek proposals for the development of transmission system upgrades to enable new offshore wind projects to transmit power into the region's electric grid. The bill will also require the State's Department of General Services to purchase power resulting from offshore wind projects, and will require new offshore wind project proposals to include community benefits agreements emphasizing the use of domestic materials and skilled local labor.

Montgomery County respectfully requests that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 781.