

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

February 27, 2023

Senator and Committee Chair Brian J. Feldman
Senator and Committee Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan
Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

RE: **Support** for SB0590, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

We are writing in support of SB0590, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of SB0590. Baltimore's 2019 Sustainability Plan's Energy section calls for the higher standards for Maryland's RPS (Strategy 2, Action 2). With the growth of renewable and clean energy sources in Maryland, the inclusion of biomass in our RPS does not align with our Sustainability Plan's clean air targets, nor the targets of other national, regional, or state documents and laws. This bill would disincentivize harmful pollutants that impact marginalized communities.

We urge the Committee to support SB0590.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Senator Karen Lewis Young