



Bill: SB 935/HB 1379- Dept. of General Services- Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program- Establishment

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions (MCIES), a trade association promoting the inclusivity of all energy sources to meet the state's energy needs, I am writing to support SB 935/HB 1379.

Renewable natural gas (RNG) is an eco-friendly, cost-effective, and dependable energy source derived from the treatment of organic waste. This process not only harnesses the biogas from decomposing organic matter but also mitigates methane emissions—a potent greenhouse gas—thereby converting potential environmental hazards into a valuable, low to zero carbon energy resource. Given that every community in Maryland contributes to organic waste, the potential for RNG production is significant. By capturing methane from sources like food waste, animal manure, and wastewater, and repurposing it, we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint and make strides towards a more sustainable energy future.

The versatility of RNG is further underscored by its compatibility with existing natural gas infrastructure, allowing for a seamless transition and immediate impact on reducing the carbon intensity of natural gas. For hard-to-electrify operations, and for applications experiencing rapid technological advances, RNG is one of the most promising decarbonization levers on offer. With the potential to meet a substantial portion of the state's industrial and residential natural gas demands, RNG presents a viable solution for decarbonizing sectors that have traditionally been challenging to transition away from fossil fuels.

Renewable natural gas presents opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and support economic growth and sustainability across many sectors of Maryland's economy. We believe this legislation represents a strategic step towards diversifying Maryland's energy sources, contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and moving closer to achieving the state's ambitious environmental targets.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important matter. We look forward to contributing to Maryland's sustainable energy future.

Sincerely,

George Anas
President