

JASON C. GALLION  
Legislative District 35  
Harford and Cecil Counties

Education, Energy, and  
the Environment Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 414  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3603 · 301-858-3603  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3603  
Fax 410-841-3115 · 301-858-3115  
Jason.Gallion@senate.state.md.us

District Office  
64 S. Main Street  
Port Deposit, Maryland 21904

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

RE: SB 935 –Department of General Services– Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program –  
Establishment

Position: **Favorable**

Dear Chair Feldman,

This legislation would require DGS in consultation with MDE and the University System of Maryland to establish a Natural Gas Pilot Program in the department by January 2025.

This pilot program would require the state to procure renewable natural gas for use as fuel in the state's transportation and building sectors to evaluate the economic benefits and costs of replacing fossil natural gas with renewable natural gas. Specifically, taking a look at these benefits over a short term and long term basis to see how it can help to further greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

When evaluating this pilot program the department will:

- collect greenhouse gas emissions reduction data to see if RNG supports the States climate commitments.
- Require the generator of the RNG to complete a carbon lifecycle analysis through an independent third party contractor.
- Analyze the economic benefits and costs of expanding the use of RNG in the transportation and building sectors in the state.

To meet our ambitious climate goals we need to be considering every renewable energy source at our disposal, it will be critical to scale production of alternative fuels like RNG as we work toward the net zero emissions goal set for 2050.

RNG can be blended with conventional natural gas, a fossil fuel, to create pipeline quality gas with a lower carbon intensity profile. Lowering the CI of vehicle fuel in the state would result in significant emissions reductions from the transportation sector, the state's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

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Maryland is in a particularly favorable position to implement an RNG procurement pilot program. The abundance of agricultural operations and byproducts in the region provide a reliable, adequate feedstock for biomass to RNG projects.

In recent years, Virginia and Vermont have adopted RNG procurement programs in recent years. The state programs vary by structure, but share the common goal of supporting the development, procurement, and distribution of RNG.

I believe Maryland should be the next state that implements an RNG and with that ask for a favorable report on SB 935.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Gallion".

Jason Gallion

Senator, District 35