



February 29, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Geothermal Association (MGA) I write in support of Senate Bill 570, Public Utilities – Thermal Energy Network Systems – Authorization and Establishment (Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat (WARMTH) Act. The Maryland Geothermal Association MGA is a non-profit trade organization that was formed in 2013 in order to promote the development and installation of highly efficient geothermal heating and cooling systems for both residential and commercial applications.

Our association members believe that expanding the use of geothermal energy can assist the state in meeting its renewable energy goals as well as lead to significant job creation. Geothermal systems can provide constant baseline power. The earth's interior heat is consistent, allowing plants and systems to operate consistently regardless of weather or time of day. In addition, geothermal systems have lower emissions and are more efficient when compared to fossil fuels and other recognized forms of renewable energy because of the reliability and consistency the energy source utilized.

From an economic development perspective, increased geothermal capacity could support thousands of installation and construction jobs in Maryland. It is estimated that 4,300 direct geothermal industry jobs would be created per 500 Mega Watts of installed capacity. The ancillary benefits are also profound. Should Maryland invest in an enhanced geothermal industry, there is a potential for manufacturing and supply chain businesses to locate to the State. It is estimated that 2.5 indirect jobs may be created for each direct geothermal job.

Our association membership urges a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Adam Santry, President
Maryland Geothermal Association