



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 935

Department of General Services – Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program –
Establishment

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| Date: March 1, 2024 | Position: Favorable |
| To: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee | From: Doug Myers MD Senior Scientist |

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 935 which is a pilot program for two years to determine the feasibility of replacing fossil natural gas with renewable natural gas considering life cycle emissions reductions and other feasibility factors.

Methane is many times more powerful of a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and manifests in warming the atmosphere under much faster timeframe. Methane is naturally produced by anaerobic bacteria by the breakdown of any organic matter in anoxic conditions.

The current allowance for biogas digestion in the renewable portfolio standard supported by CBF both as a greenhouse gas reduction strategy and a manure management technology is an example of such a policy this pilot program would explore. Maryland's Animal Waste Technology Fund has allowed biogas digestion facilities of multiple scales to be built reusing waste from a single farm or regionally from closely located facilities. This pilot program could explore other sources of renewable natural gas such as capture from landfills, food waste diversion and composting programs and other sources of fugitive emissions of methane. The displacement of fossil natural gas currently running through pipelines would have a positive effect on net greenhouse gas reductions and turn dangerous emissions into a home-grown energy source.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 935.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.