

SB 480 - Department of General Services - Clean Energy Procurement Program - Establishment

Position: Letter of Information

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: February 20, 2025

From: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Department of General Services (DGS) appreciates the opportunity to provide information regarding Senate Bill 480 - Department of General Services - Clean Energy Procurement Program - Establishment.

Senate Bill 480 proposes to establish a Clean Energy Procurement Program within DGS to procure biogas for use in the State's transportation and building sectors. Additionally, the bill requires an evaluation of the environmental and economic benefits of replacing fossil natural gas with biogas.

Establishing this program would necessitate comprehensive market research, issuing a competitive sealed procurement, and conducting extensive data collection and analysis over a period of more than one year. To effectively implement and manage this program, DGS would require additional staffing, at a minimum hiring one dedicated personnel member.

However, DGS notes that it is not necessary to issue a procurement to evaluate the potential environmental and economic benefits of transitioning from fossil natural gas to biogas. The Department has the capability to conduct an analysis of environmental benefits and price differentials without the immediate purchase of biogas. This would allow the State to assess the viability of such a transition without committing to procurement before a thorough review.

DGS remains committed to exploring opportunities for clean energy utilization and supports initiatives that align with the State's sustainability and energy efficiency goals. We look forward to further discussions with stakeholders to determine the most effective and fiscally responsible approach to evaluating and implementing clean energy solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to reach out if further clarification is needed.

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