

Senate Bill 480

Date: February 20, 2025

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Support

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 480 (SB 480) establishes a Clean Energy Procurement Program within the Maryland Department of General Services. This legislation takes a pragmatic approach to advancing Maryland's energy goals by evaluating the role of biogas as a traditional and complementary energy source for the state's transportation and building sectors.

As Maryland works towards its ambitious climate goals, maintaining energy reliability and affordability remains paramount for the business community. SB 480 facilitates a data-driven approach to assessing biogas' potential, ensuring that environmental and economic considerations are carefully weighed. By leveraging existing waste streams, biogas presents an opportunity to reduce methane emissions while integrating seamlessly into current energy infrastructure, minimizing costly disruptions.

A diversified energy strategy is critical for businesses that rely on stable and cost-effective energy solutions. Biogas offers a practical, near-term option that supports industry needs while reducing overall carbon emissions. Furthermore, the bill's emphasis on competitive procurement ensures fiscal responsibility and market-driven outcomes.

For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 480**.