



**Bill:** SB 480/HB 1417- Department of General Services - Clean Energy Procurement Program - Establishment

**Position:** SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions, Inc. (MCIES), a coalition of diverse stakeholders, including representatives from organized labor, manufacturing, energy production, transportation, and public utilities, offers our support for SB 480/HB 1417.

The purpose of the program is to procure biogas for use as a fuel in Maryland's transportation and building sectors and to evaluate the environmental and economic benefits and costs of replacing fossil natural gas with biogas, on a short-term and long-term basis, in furtherance of the state's net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Biogas presents an innovative and immediate opportunity by leveraging existing waste streams to create a sustainable energy source. In this way, methane emissions from food waste, animal manure, wastewater sludge, and other organic materials are repurposed into a renewable, ultra-low to zero-carbon energy sources.

As Maryland continues its transition to a cleaner energy future, the use of biogas can play a pivotal role in decarbonizing hard-to-electrify sectors such as heavy-duty transportation and industrial facilities that require high-temperature heat. The ability of biogas to integrate into existing natural gas infrastructure makes it an efficient and cost-effective tool for reducing overall emissions.

We commend the bill's sponsors for introducing this forward-thinking legislation and urge the General Assembly to vote favorable on SB 480/HB 1417.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

Sarah Peters  
Executive Director