



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Senate Bill 706 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Alterations

Date: February 26, 2026
To: Senate Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**
From: Gussie Maguire,
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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES Senate Bill 706** which significantly lowers targets set by the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard for Tier I renewable sources.

The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a critical piece of Maryland's response to climate change; weakening its provisions as residents across the state have already and continue to experience disastrous flooding, dangerous heat, and other consequences of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions puts Marylanders at risk. Reneging on commitments to move away from fossil fuels also endangers progress made to restore Maryland's ecosystems: atmospheric nitrogen, a significant by-product of burning fossil fuels and contributor to nutrient pollution, is then deposited in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Nutrient pollution leads to algal blooms and dead zones and places stress on the Bay's aquatic species, from blue crabs to striped bass; the species that feed on them; and on Maryland's seafood industry. Maryland cannot afford to back down from the targets set in the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on SB 706.

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.