



March 3, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman
and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Senate of Maryland, Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB0801** – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, EmPOWER Energy Efficiency Programs, and Net Energy Metering – **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women supports SB0801 to make Maryland energy efficiency programs more transparent, accountable, and beneficial to Maryland citizens and energy ratepayers. Maryland's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is paid for by Maryland citizens through their electric and gas energy bills and various tax and fee programs.

- The EmPOWER Maryland program has not resulted in lower energy costs for Maryland customers.
- The RGGI allowances and compliance payments have not resulted in more abundant and reliable energy for Marylanders.
- Funds from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) have been siphoned off to cover shortages in the Maryland General Fund Budget -- \$292M in the FY 2027 Proposed Budget.

The EmPOWER fee on a family's monthly electric bill ranges from \$10 - \$20 a month. Green energy advocates promote electric heat-pump systems that are inadequate to comfortably heat homes in extreme weather and result in exorbitant electric bills that most families cannot afford.

Maryland's environmental policies have resulted in the closure of multiple power plants in recent years. We currently import approximately 40% of our electric supply. Through the RGGI and EmPOWER Maryland programs, Marylanders are paying excessive prices for energy while subsidizing out-of-state power often generated from coal-fired energy plants, counter to the goal of lower greenhouse gas emissions.

The State needs to generate more of its own electricity by expanding nuclear energy capacity and incorporating lower-GHG sources such as natural gas and propane. Land mass required to produce a given quantity of electricity must also be a consideration. It takes approximately 10 times the land used by Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant to produce the same amount of energy by less reliable solar energy generation. The environmental and financial costs of removing a massive offshore wind turbine facility at life-cycle end will be staggering -- think brownfield cleanup in 200 ft of water, nineteen miles offshore.

Solar and wind energy are intermittent sources of energy and cannot meet Maryland's energy needs. The Renewable Energy program should be reformed to be the Clean Energy Program and must include nuclear energy, geothermal, and hydroelectric energy generation sources. It is time to re-think RGGI and EmPOWER Maryland programs.

Please vote a **FAVORABLE** Report for **SB0801**.

Sincerely,

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