



Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 26, 2026

To: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of SB706 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Alterations**

On behalf of the over 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in favor of SB706 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Alterations. This proposed legislation responsibly adjusts Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by reducing Tier 1 renewable percentage requirements beginning in 2027. As written, SB 706 decreases the Tier 1 mandate from previously scheduled levels, such as lowering the 2027 requirement from 41.5% to 26% and adjusting future-year targets accordingly. These changes reflect a realistic assessment of Maryland’s energy landscape and help protect consumers, including Maryland’s farming community.

The Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) has long held that energy policy must balance environmental goals with affordability, reliability, and preservation of agricultural viability. MDFB policy explicitly states that it opposes any percentage increase to the RPS if it causes an increase to electric rates for consumers. By reducing rather than expanding the RPS mandate, SB 706 aligns directly with this principle and helps ensure that Maryland’s farmers are not burdened by escalating utility costs they cannot pass along in competitive markets.

In addition, MDFB policy urges policymakers to ensure renewable energy development does not come at the expense of agricultural land or rural communities. By tempering the overall RPS requirement, SB 706 reduces the pressure for rapid expansion of large-scale renewable facilities, especially utility-grade solar, that threaten farmland preservation and agricultural viability across the state.

Maryland’s farmers are strong supporters of balanced, practical energy solutions. MDFB supports a diverse mix of energy sources—including wind, solar, biofuels, methane recovery, and on-farm renewables—but only when implemented in ways that remain affordable and respect agricultural land-use priorities. SB 706 is a measured correction that helps recalibrate Maryland’s energy mandate to ensure that the transition to cleaner energy does not undermine the economic sustainability of the state’s largest industry: agriculture.

For these reasons, the Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully supports SB 706 and urges a favorable report.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Hough". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

Please contact Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions