

Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019: Why the House Can NOT Wait for a Hogan-influenced Study on Solar and Wind Power

The importance of the "Power Plant Research Program" study on the state's clean electricity standard (Renewable Portfolio standard or RPS) has been totally overtaken by Trump's harmful tariffs on solar power and by shocking new science on climate change. Waiting even one year to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act would cost potentially thousands of Maryland solar jobs, cost homeowners and ratepayers over \$200 million in missed federal tax credits, and harm our state's response to catastrophic climate change.

Highlights of why we can't wait for an outmoded energy study:

- The Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) study of wind and solar in Maryland was commissioned two years ago, before President Trump levied tariffs on imported solar panels, steel and aluminum.
- In 2018, thanks to Trump and other factors, Maryland lost over 800 solar jobs. Even more jobs could be lost this year if the Clean Energy Jobs Act is not passed. The bill increases our state's renewable power goal (RPS) to 50% by 2030.
- The PPRP study was commissioned before a bombshell United Nations scientific report was released in October. That UN report shows the world has barely more than ten years to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half.

- In February, responding to the UN report, ten of Maryland's leading climate scientists wrote to the General Assembly to urgently endorse passage of the Clean Energy Jobs Act this year. "You have to act," they said.
- The PPRP draft report – which was released behind schedule in February – actually CONFIRMS that Maryland can meet a 50% clean electricity standard by 2030 and so can other states in the regional grid. The draft report, however, contains a section influenced by Hogan Administration officials that outlines some unsubstantiated concerns about renewable power. It is noteworthy that Hogan vetoed a 25% clean power standard in 2016 and the General Assembly overrode his veto.
- The PPRP draft report comes after two much more thorough Maryland reports released in 2018 concluded that Maryland can significantly exceed a 50% clean power standard by 2030.
- Yet some House leaders still say we need to wait for the final PPRP report, which reportedly cost \$1 million to conduct, even though waiting just one year would cost Maryland solar homeowners and ratepayers over \$200 million in lost federal Investment Tax Credits. These credits were secured through the hard work of Maryland U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen. This loss would be in addition to the likely 1,000 additional solar jobs lost in Maryland and a full year lost on climate policy action that scientists say we cannot afford.

Maryland cannot afford to delay clean energy legislation. Pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act