

The Right Investment for Maryland

Dear Governor Hogan,

On behalf of 120 solar companies in Maryland, MDV-SEIA requests your signature on SB516, *The Clean Energy Jobs Act*. This Act would ensure Maryland is “open for business” for the solar energy industry.

Return on Investment for Ratepayers: The best subsidies do two things: provide excellent return on investment, and quickly disappear. The Clean Energy Jobs Act does just that. The fiscal note for SB 516 estimates that energy bills increase by no more than \$2 per household per month. This is because SB 516 reduces the maximum Renewable Energy Credit (REC) price to just \$22.50. Thus, by 2028, solar energy will be supported at just 5% of what it was 2008.

Meanwhile, based on analysis from Daymark Energy Advisors¹ and Sage Policy Group², the Clean Energy Jobs Act is expected to attract \$10 billion in economic benefit and create over 20,000 new solar jobs in Maryland over the next ten years. This is not a sunshine tax but a sunshine investment: Maryland receives five dollars of economic benefit for each dollar invested in the RPS.

Matching Fortune 100 Goals: According to *Forbes*, 63% of Fortune 100 businesses have renewable energy goals, with Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook and Google already powering operations with 100% clean energy. Aligning Maryland’s own energy goals with corporate sustainability targets makes the state more attractive to major businesses.

The Right Jobs of the 21st Century: One of your top priorities as Governor has been to diversify Maryland’s workforce away from the public sector. Solar and wind jobs are among the fastest growing careers nationally, but Maryland’s clean tech sector has fallen behind. We urge you to reverse the loss of 900 jobs in the solar industry and put Maryland on a path to start hiring again. The entry-level solar installer makes an average of \$18 an hour and requires no tertiary education, making solar a good career opportunity for our young men and women. Using data from Daymark Energy Advisors, the Clean Energy Jobs Act is estimated to create 20,000 solar jobs over the course of ten years.

A Legacy of Local Power: While 40% of Maryland’s electricity is sourced from out of state, The Clean Energy Jobs Act prioritizes the new development of in-state solar and wind. This diversifies our electricity portfolio, and hedges against rising fuel costs and federal carbon regulation.

The long term, achievable solar target drives major capital investment, providing a runway for Maryland businesses to open new offices, invest in markets across the state, and develop a pipeline of ambitious men and women eager to transform Maryland’s energy landscape.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MDVSEIA

¹ “Benefits and Costs of Utility Scale and Behind the Meter Solar Resources in Maryland,” Daymark Energy Advisors, RLC Engineering, ESS Group prepared for the Maryland Public Service Commission. November 2, 2018

² “An Analysis of the Economic Impact of the Proposed 1,200MW Expansion of Maryland’s Offshore Wind Program,” Sage Policy Group. March 2019.

