



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 22, 2019

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Maryland Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In my most recent State of the State address, I pledged my strong support for clean and renewable energy solutions that are affordable, reliable, and produce jobs right here in Maryland. As well-intentioned as *Senate Bill 516 - Clean Energy Jobs* may be, it sorely fails this test.

Despite its name, this bill is not clean enough, nor smart enough, nor does it create the intended jobs within Maryland. Instead, it is a rushed and deeply flawed proposal in need of significant improvements. However, I am allowing *Senate Bill 516* to become law without my signature in the hopes of opening the door for a productive conversation to truly advance clean and renewable energy in our state.

The General Assembly mandated that the Department of Natural Resources Power Plant Research Program study the impact on ratepayers of a proposed increase in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 50%, setting a deadline of December 1, 2019 for completion. Unfortunately, rather than waiting to receive a final report and craft a responsible plan, this legislation appears politically motivated—it mandates a broad and untargeted increase in the RPS that threatens to roll back our progress and send jobs and environmental benefits to other states.

This misguided legislation also threatens to place Maryland's farms, forests, waterways, and wetlands in jeopardy. It fails to address land use issues and could impose serious damage on economically and environmentally sensitive areas and viewsheds. And, while *Senate Bill 516* masquerades as a job-creating proposal, Maryland stands to lose out on far too many of those jobs to out-of-state companies.

As a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Transportation and Climate Initiative, and United States Climate Alliance, our administration has worked to address climate change and reduce carbon emissions. I am proud of Maryland's role as a national leader on clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction, and we should continue to lead the charge on these important issues. That is why I am focusing my efforts on advancing a Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES).

Our CARES plan aims to get us to **zero carbon emissions**, rather than just increasing the quotas for dirty energy and outdated technologies. It uses competition to get better results at a lower cost to ratepayers. Our CARES target is clear: **100% clean electricity by 2040**. This better and bolder goal is what our state should be striving for as we continue to set an example for the rest of the nation.


CARES will be an all-of-the-above strategy that significantly reduces carbon emissions by:

- Increasing the strategic use of zero- and low-carbon clean and renewable energy sources;
- Recognizing the clean and safe aspects of nuclear energy;
- Supporting hydropower, coupled directly with maintaining environmental stewardship;
- Advancing emerging technology for carbon capture and storage; and
- Utilizing the role of energy-efficient combined heat and power.

I have instructed Secretary Ben Grumbles of the Maryland Department of the Environment and Director Mary Beth Tung of the Maryland Energy Administration to develop CARES so that I can submit this innovative, home-grown, forward-thinking alternative to you on the first day of the 2020 General Assembly Session. This proposal will include some of the many improvements needed to fix your flawed *Clean Energy Jobs* legislation.

Our administration continues to support responsible, clean, and renewable energy projects that provide in-state jobs, clean air benefits, and energy independence in Maryland—for the benefit of Marylanders. We will continue to work with the General Assembly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard our environment.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor