



7338 Baltimore Ave
Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740

Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB153 – “Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Municipal Electric Utilities”

Position: Oppose

Hearing Date: January 21, 2021

The Maryland Sierra Club urges this Committee to report SB153 unfavorably.

The Sierra Club is concerned that this legislation would move our state in the opposite direction on climate action. Last year was tied for being the hottest year on record globally, demonstrating the continued and growing threat of climate change. Maryland has over 3,000 miles of coastline, making it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change like sea level rise.

Cleaning the electricity grid is one of the pillars of climate action because fossil fuels – like coal, oil, and gas – emit millions of tons of climate pollution in Maryland each year. This makes Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) a critical tool to put more clean energy on the grid to fight climate change, and air and water pollution. Analysis from the Maryland Department of the Environment has repeatedly demonstrated that the RPS policy is one of Maryland's most important policy tools to meet its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act mandates.

Maryland must do its part to deploy as much clean energy as possible to meet state and international climate action goals. This legislation stalls progression of parts of the RPS, thus harming clean energy deployment.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with the Committee to deploy clean energy in Maryland and combat the climate crisis.

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Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.