



## **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

### **SB 516 Support**

**House Economic Matters Committee / Senate Finance Committee**

**March 8, 2019**

**SB 516: Clean Energy Jobs**

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The City of Takoma Park supports the goals of Senator Feldman's bill and urges favorable consideration.

Recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the National Climate Assessment make clear that our climate is dramatically and rapidly changing, with devastating consequences, and that greenhouse gas emissions must be dramatically reduced in the very short term to address these consequences.

Maryland is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. We have already begun to witness these, including more severe and frequent storms, greater rainfall, increased flooding, more frequent and extreme heat waves, sea level rise along its extensive coasts, and other major detrimental impacts.

The State of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law can be a forceful incentive for meeting these challenges through adoption of new and clean sources of renewable energy with less climate impact. But the current Maryland RPS of 25% by 2020 is a modest and outdated goal. Addressing the impacts of accelerating climate change calls for much stronger and swifter action. And

greater public and private sector efforts to adopt renewable energy sources require a much more aggressive target to motivate additional efforts.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our many local policies and actions, and our commitments to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge. But without aggressive State support for our actions, such as aggressive renewable portfolio standards and workforce training to meet the needs of our clean energy industry, we cannot meet our own goals.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports SB 516, and encourages a favorable vote.