

A Resolution Supporting the “Forward with 40%: Double Maryland’s Clean Power by 2025” Campaign

F 14-12-03 A

1. WHEREAS, the Student Government Association (SGA) represents the student body; and,
2. WHEREAS, the SGA is dedicated to advocating for students on sustainability issues, as evidenced by the establishment of the Student Sustainability Committee (SSC); and,
3. WHEREAS, per SGA bylaws, the Director of Governmental Affairs serves as the chief lobbyist in pursuing the county, state, and federal agenda of the SGA, and in part with the Committee on Governmental Affairs monitors, researches, and recommends courses of action for SGA policies and proposals that affect the interests of the undergraduate student body; and,
3. WHEREAS, the SGA is devoted to taking on initiatives and supporting policies that will reduce the climate impacts of the University of Maryland and the state; and,
4. WHEREAS, for example, in academic year 2013-2014 the SGA urged President Loh to commit to purchasing only renewable electricity by 2020 [1] and opposed the construction of the Cove Point LNG facility in Lusby, Maryland [2], and,
5. WHEREAS, climate action is especially critical in Maryland because the state is the third most vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise in the entire United States [3]; and,
6. WHEREAS, extreme weather events and changing temperature patterns are emerging in Maryland [4]; and,
7. WHEREAS, in order to combat these and other impacts of climate change, Maryland has a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which currently requires that 20% of Maryland’s electricity be generated from renewable energy sources by 2022 [5]; and,
8. WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) is a nonprofit, grassroots organization that is dedicated to fighting sources of climate change in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. [6]; and,
9. WHEREAS, CCAN has launched a campaign, entitled “Forward with 40%: Double Maryland’s Clean Power by 2025” to persuade the Maryland State Government to double the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard to 40% by 2025; and,
10. WHEREAS, doubling the RPS to require that 40% of Maryland’s electricity be generated from renewable energy sources would further accelerate Maryland’s transition from fossil fuels; and,
11. WHEREAS, average prices of wind and solar energy have fallen since the establishment of the initial RPS goal of 20% [6]; and,
12. WHEREAS, doubling the RPS to “a 40% clean electricity standard will create nearly 20,000 direct jobs in wind alone, including engineers, electricians, and turbine operators. Doubling the goal for solar energy to 4% will fuel the solar energy job sector in Maryland. [6]”; and,

13. WHEREAS, doubling the RPS would create incentives for roughly 4,500 megawatts of new clean energy in Maryland and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 9 million metric tons per year [6]; and,
14. WHEREAS, renewable energy sources provide significant air quality improvements and reduce premature asthma, mortality, and healthcare costs [8]; and,
15. WHEREAS, doubling the RPS would improve the quality of life and health of the 85% of Marylanders who live in areas that do not meet national air quality standards, such as Prince George's County and Baltimore City; and,
16. WHEREAS, that in order to maintain an effective lobbying strategy for the SGA's legislative agenda in the 2015 Legislative Session, it is imperative that the Committee on Government Affairs provide oversight on and be heavily involved in any lobbying efforts conducted in Annapolis, including any environmental policy; and
16. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Government Association officially supports increasing Maryland's RPS to 40% by 2025; and,
17. THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government Association commits to working in Annapolis during the upcoming 2015 legislative session in order to lobby state legislators in favor of doubling the Maryland RPS to 40% by 2025.

Sponsor: Kyle Vaughan - BSOS Representative

Committee: Committee on Sustainability (Primary)
Committee on Governmental Affairs (Secondary)

Vote: In Favor _____ Opposed _____ Abstentions _____

Therefore, the bill: PASSES FAILS

Speaker:

Aiden Galloway

President:

Patrick Ronk

- [1]https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dz5vZpOiGuDfnEv7DEFNlvVUcaV3A5h8K1OYlwqIgZw/edit?usp=drive_web
- [2]https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tcNnVPdMX85Bqb5ewqHrfdz6V9bmp1ZBwL6LNv7bPjM/edit?usp=drive_web
- [3]<http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/air/climatechange/pages/air/climatechange/index.aspx>
- [4] <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/climatechange/>
- [5] <http://energy.maryland.gov/mdGoals.html>
- [6] <http://chesapeakeclimate.org/maryland/40-percent-rps/>
- [7]http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/our-energy-choices/renewable-energy/public-benefits-of-renewable.html#bf-toc-1
- [8]<https://content.sierraclub.org/coal/sites/content.sierraclub.org.coal/files/MD%20RACT%20Factsheet%20HiRes.pdf>
- [9]http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=23&Itemid=35