

We urge a **GREEN** vote on:

SB 684: RPS – Qualifying Biomass (Black Liquor and Wood Waste)

End MD Ratepayer Subsidies to Out-of-State Polluting Facilities

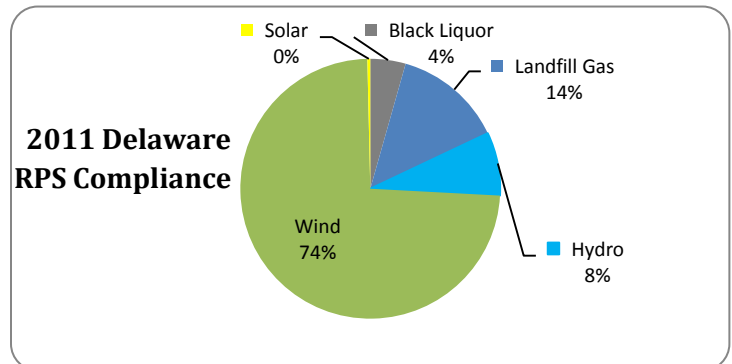
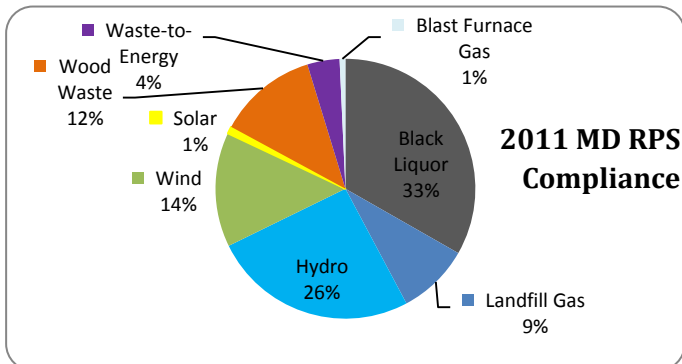
SUPPORT with Floor Leader Amendments

This bill will phase out old facilities from MD’s Renewable Portfolio Standard that burn “black liquor” (a paper mill waste byproduct) and carbon-intensive wood waste. It will allow new efficient “biomass” energy plants to qualify. A loophole in the RPS law has allowed old biomass plants that create significant pollution to capture millions of dollars in ratepayer subsidies. Most of these plants are out-of-state. With SB 684, Maryland renewable energy credits will support new generation, new jobs, and cleaner air with almost zero impact on ratepayers.

Supporting Organizations and Businesses: Maryland Energy Administration, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, MDV SEIA, BITHENERGY, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Clean Water Action, Sierra Club Maryland, Environment Maryland, Maryland PIRG, Maryland League of Women Voters, Interfaith Power & Light of Maryland, Alliance for Green Heat, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

KEY POINTS:

- 1) According to the Maryland Energy Administration, SB 684/HB 1102 will have virtually zero ratepayer impact. Maryland’s largest utilities are not opposed. All this bill would do is redirect money previously used for black liquor and wood waste towards truly clean products like wind power.
- 2) There is only one paper mill in Maryland that burns black liquor. An amendment grandfathers this plant and one out-of-state facility through 2018. Afterwards, the MD plant will be kept whole with guaranteed state resources. Other out-of-state plants are phased out of the RPS “Tier 1” in 2014.
- 3) With this bill, 15-30% more of Maryland’s clean energy dollars will flow to new renewable generation by 2020, representing up to 1400 MW. This will mean new jobs, economic development, and cleaner air.



Compared to Delaware and surrounding states, Maryland’s RPS is flooded with black liquor and wood waste. Protect Maryland consumers by investing their ratepayer money on truly clean renewable energy.