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February 19, 2010

Maryland State House of Representatives
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support HB 522, Public Service Commission - Report on the State's Long-Term Energy Needs

Dear Delegates of the Economic Matters Committee,

I am here representing our company, TerraLogos Energy Group, and also as Co-Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Efficiency First, the national trade organization for Home Performance Contractors.

Our company and other Home Performance Contractors are in the energy efficiency business. We perform energy audits and energy improvement contracting to reduce the energy use at our customers' properties. Our solutions simultaneously improve comfort and indoor air quality while reducing our customers' energy bills and impacts on global warming.

TerraLogos Energy Group urges you to vote YES to HB 522, which would encourage comprehensive energy planning for our state.

Our company's work demonstrates the merits of a comprehensive approach. Traditionally, home improvement contractors would only look at one aspect of the home – the windows or the insulation or the HVAC system or even installing alternative energy systems.

However, this non-comprehensive approach delivers poor results. The results we see around us on almost all our buildings, which use 20-50% more energy than they need. In addition, the non-comprehensive approach costs more due to a lack of coordination and timing for the various projects.

Lastly, everyone would like to invest their limited resources on the projects that provide the best returns in savings and benefits. With the non-comprehensive approach, the property owner risks investing in a project that would be fine if done 3rd or 4th on the list, but is a waste of money if done 1st.

Without a comprehensive energy program, Maryland risks the same problems as our property owners – but on a much larger scale. We will get:

- Poor results,
- Which will cost more than they should, and
- We might miss the chance to invest in the best projects.

We have come to realize locally, nationally and around the world that energy is at the core of many of our most pressing matters. With a sound and comprehensive energy program, we can

- Reduce costs by bring together the many state agencies and stakeholders, such as MDE, MEA, MDP, DNR, OPC and more, to work in concert to plan for our energy future
- Ensure the best possible combination of reliability, cost, and environmental protection to achieve the best results.
- Achieve our goals, such as those of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Act to reduce carbon emissions 25% by 2020.
- And obtain excellent benefits for our state, such as reduced energy costs for all, improved security for our energy future, and a strong leadership position in the emerging low-carbon economy.
Make no mistake about it – being leaders in clean energy WILL provide someone with excellent business opportunities. We have the chance to secure those opportunities for Maryland businesses.

Thank you very much for your leadership. The energy decisions we are making today will have substantial impacts on our future and the future for our grandchildren. We owe it to them to rise to the occasion and make the sound decisions that will achieve the long lasting results.

All of us at TerraLogos urge you to report HB 522 favorably.

Sincerely,



Peter Van Buren
President, TerraLogos Energy Group
Co-Chairman, Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Efficiency First