

Clean energy is awesome. Affordable clean energy is awesome. Clean energy jobs are awesome!
Living sustainably is a goal we should all support.

The problem is the gap between our energy needs and the ability of sustainable energy sources to meet that need. My thought right now is we Marylanders (and the nation in general) should strive to consume less energy and to transition onto renewable energy resources as soon as this transition is practical (both technology and economics considered). There are many ways to reduce energy demand that are as yet unexplored. Specifically, older commercial office space (often totally uninsulated) and apartment buildings (particularly older ones).

This said, I personally do not favor establishing a policy that demands some sort of invention to satisfy our energy needs beyond 2040. I do support a policy change once the invention is proven. I support this policy change on the basic premise that we should all strive to live more sustainably by making good, informed choices. To start down a path that intentionally removes fossil fuel (and nuclear power) from our energy production portfolio without a known way to deliver required energy is a mistake in my view. This is not to say that some regions of the USA (like the southwest and northwest) cannot move toward 100% reliance on renewables if wind power (and other sources like geothermal) is indeed sufficient to deliver required power 100% of the time. This is, after all the issue. Our energy solution must be able to meet 100% of our needs 100% of the time. To place a bet that we will invent the solution needed to support Maryland's power needs past 2030 seems is risky.

One additional thought... The commercial power generation industry is facing an enormous challenge - reinventing their entire business model. As citizens install solar panels and other sustainable energy sources, the demand curve is changing and with it the cost of energy. While I do not advocate policies that artificially support old ways of doing business, I do recognize we need a reliable and affordable source of energy. Whatever we do with RGGI, we need to be fully aware of the effect RGGI inspired policies has on these utilities.

Summary: Do everything possible to conserve energy (by installing more efficient appliances, improving insulation, installing alternative energy systems, etc) and by leveraging into the power grid as much affordable sustainable energy as is possible. Do this while investing in, and continually evaluating, the technology needed to fill the remains energy gap (the gap between energy that can be produced sustainably and the demand for energy on the grid).

Respectfully,

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