



Martin O'Malley, *Governor*  
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*  
Malcolm D. Woolf, *Director*

**DATE:** March 22, 2011  
**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 829  
**SHORT TITLE:** Renewable Energy for All Act  
**DEPARTMENTAL POSITION:** Support

This bill would establish a Residential Biomass Heating System Grant Program within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to provide grants to individuals for a portion of the costs of acquiring and installing eligible pellet and nonpellet biomass heating systems. MEA would also be authorized to award additional trade-in grants under specified conditions.

**BACKGROUND**

It is estimated that over 240,000 Maryland homes use wood or pellets for heat. Only about 10% of those homes, however, use wood as a primary or sole heat source. Residential biomass heating systems generally range in price from \$1,000 to \$4,000. MEA believes that with a Maryland grant to help offset those costs of biomass heating systems for Maryland residents, it will create a greater incentive to use cleaner, cheaper heating sources. As a result, this would also assist in meeting Governor O'Malley's energy goals reduce per capita electricity consumption in Maryland by 15 % by 2015 and increase Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS) by 20% by 2022.

For these reasons, MEA supports HB 829.