

application or a claim is not subject to public disclosure; providing for certain funding to implement the production credits; defining certain terms; and generally relating to production credits for certain ethanol and biodiesel products.

BY adding to

Article – Agriculture

Section 10–1501 through 10–1507, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 15. Production Credits for Renewable Fuels”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 10–616(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – State Government

Section 10–616(t)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The United States imports more than 62% of its oil and this percentage is expected to grow to more than 77% by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, The use and production of clean burning, domestically produced renewable fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, will reduce the United States’ dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, Ethanol production has doubled nationally in the last ten years, to a level where 84 plants in 20 states have a capacity to produce 3.4 billion gallons annually, mostly in states that have offered production credits and other incentives; and

WHEREAS, Biodiesel production is anticipated to grow from its current 30 million gallons annually to 150 million gallons annually, due in part to the increased demand for a clean-burning alternative to sulphur in diesel fuel; and

WHEREAS, The construction of ethanol and biodiesel production facilities will provide expanded market opportunities for farmers and a value added enterprise that will promote economic development in rural areas; and