



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB109 Public Service Commission - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Rapid Health Impact Assessment and Final Action

The MLLC supports HB109 Public Service Commission - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Rapid Health Impact Assessment and Final Action.

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB109.

Energy generating projects, such as power gas plants, natural gas lines, high voltage transmission structures, and generator lead lines, have the potential to increase air pollution and other environmental risk factors. Latinos, especially children, are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution, and consequently are more likely to suffer from negative health outcomes. In addition, these construction projects are developed disproportionately in communities of color and low-income families. It is critical that in any areas that these structures are being built, that it is reported on their potential public health impacts.

HB109 requires energy companies applying for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to conduct a rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) report within 30 days of submitting the application to the Public Service Commission. The Commission must decide only after considering the rapid HIA and the estimated project's effects on air and water quality in surrounding areas. These assessments are detrimental to aid in reducing socioeconomic inequalities, decreasing health hazards among minority children, and promoting equity among all Marylanders.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges your favorable report of HB109.