



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0398

### Abundant Affordable Clean Energy – Procurement and Development

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Charkoudian

**Committee:** Economic Matters

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0398 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Even without taking into account the need to transition to clean energy, Maryland's energy grid needs attention. The utility companies seem to be stuck in a same-old, same-old loop. We need a comprehensive plan for producing the energy we need without moving backwards and installing more gas infrastructure.

The AACE Act will ensure Maryland can generate the in-state clean energy we need while making energy bills more affordable and making the grid more reliable and will reduce our dependence on out-of-state dirty power, create local jobs. It will –

- Support various clean energy sources like solar, wind and storage
- Incentivize and re-organizes the renewable portfolio standard to build more in-state solar, storage and wind in a way that protects Maryland ratepayers.
- Support the relicensing of Calvert Cliffs to ensure that this in-state clean energy source remains viable
- Ensure that Maryland's grid is sufficient to address current demand, as well as the increased load from electrification and high-energy use industries.
- Create a structure for high-energy use industries to support reduced ratepayer impact of their energy use without disincentivizing the industries from moving into Maryland.

We need this kind of forward thinking and planning. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.