



HB0398
Abundant Affordable Clean Energy Act
Testimony before Economic Matters Committee
Hearing February 6, 2025
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Delegate Wilson, Vice-Chair Delegate Crosby, and members of the committee,

My name is Julia Lawrence, and I represent the 800+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB0398**, which would:

Create a comprehensive clean energy program that includes:

1. Battery storage to keep our grid reliable
2. Restructuring financing and procurement for solar programs
3. Providing support for existing in-state nuclear power

Protect ratepayers by:

1. Sharing profits from energy generation with customers
2. Capping costs for clean energy programs
3. Using data center tax revenue to offset energy costs

Prioritize in-state clean energy projects to reduce transmission costs and create local jobs.

We thank Delegate Charkoudian for sponsoring this bill.

This bill is important because without intervention, Maryland risks facing higher energy costs and potential reliability issues as demand grows. The AACE Act provides a clear path to reliable, affordable clean energy while protecting ratepayers. By generating more clean power in Maryland, we reduce the need for expensive transmission lines and create local jobs. The AACE Act's innovative profit-sharing ensures that as clean energy becomes more profitable, the savings go back to Maryland families. This approach helps us meet our climate goals while keeping energy reliable and affordable for all Marylanders.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Julia Lawrence
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Source: Maryland League of Conservation Voters Legislative Fact Sheet