

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 434

**Empowering New Energy Resources and Green Initiatives
Toward a 2 Zero–Emission (ENERGIZE) Maryland Act**

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

HEARING DATE: February 20, 2025

SPONSOR: The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators
Brooks, Ellis, and Watson

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Brian Feldman, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagen and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Maryland and a professional electric power engineer I ask for a favorable report on Bill SB 434 – The ENERGIZE Maryland Act of 2025.

Maryland presently imports 40 % of the electric power it uses. Much of that energy is generated by fossil fuel plants in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Not only does this put Maryland in a vulnerable position in terms of energy supply but we only serve to pollute some other state. Meanwhile we still are not reaching our climate action goals. Adjustments are called for.

The power industry is going through a time of great change. In some ways it is exciting given new advances in wind power generation and storage battery capabilities. On the horizon, Maryland needs to look to future developments in clean power generation. These include:

- Wave power, which has not begun to reach its potential. We are a state with a coastline and could see huge increases in wave power generation in the next 20 years.
- Nuclear power, both as Small Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) and Nuclear Fusion are 10 to 15 years away but are within the realm of possibly if cost and safety can be tackled.
- Offshore wind generation will suffer in the short term under the current Federal administration but could bounce back with a change in administration in 2028. In the meantime, Dominion Power has built the first of its fleet of factory ships capable of transporting and erecting the enormous blades and towers needed for offshore wind turbines. After completing projects in Virginia, Dominion could build wind projects along Maryland's coast.

I support the goal of facilitating construction of at least 3,000 megawatts of electricity from clean energy generation projects. This is a reasonable and achievable goal with current solar and

industrial scale battery systems. As the technological advancements mentioned above, Maryland can revise its goals and move closer to 100% clean energy generation.

Again, I ask for a Favorable Report.

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