



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6th, 2025

The Maryland State Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
2 West Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 950: *Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization*

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I believe I can say with confidence that this Committee (more than others) is well versed in the various advantages, problems, and nuances of renewable energy and renewable energy policy.

Furthermore, I believe there is a bipartisan consensus that renewable energy sources and green technologies have tremendous promise for the future. However, the technology itself and the necessary infrastructure required to use green energy at scale is not sustainable for Maryland yet.

Senate Bill 950 offers guardrails for the inevitable technical hiccups that will occur as we transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy to power the State. It will create a mechanism allowing for the construction, permitting, and operation of natural gas generating facilities until Maryland reaches 50% of its energy needs through renewable energy sources.

To those who are opposed to the use of natural gas and are concerned that this bill is some sort of workaround to gradually eliminating natural gas, you need not worry. The bill further stipulates that once State reaches this 50% threshold the Maryland Energy Administration will be empowered to start downscaling the use of these facilities, making natural gas a backup power source that will eventually phase out as the green technology becomes more effective.

Senate Bill 950 is a sensible measure to ensure the State can responsibly meet its increasing energy demands so that we're not literally left in the dark.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 950 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.