



WES MOORE
GOVERNOR
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

STATE OF MARYLAND
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

February 10, 2026

Chair J. Sandy Bartlett
Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Bartlett and Members of The Committee:

The Maryland Military Department request a favorable report for House Bill 593 – Criminal Law – Interference with Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point.

The Maryland National Guard plays a vital role in defending the state’s critical infrastructure. Through our Defensive Cyber Operations Elements and partnerships with the Department of Information Technology and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, the Maryland National Guard works every day to support vulnerability identification and defense strengthening.

While our efforts focus on prevention and response, deterrence is an equally essential pillar of any comprehensive security strategy. House Bill 593 fills a critical gap in Maryland’s legal framework by clearly defining critical infrastructure in state law and establishing felony-level penalties for those who intentionally interfere with or impair the functioning of these vital systems.

Without clear and significant legal consequences, our state remains an attractive target for those who would harm our infrastructure. When potential adversaries know that their actions will be met with serious prosecution, the calculus of risk changes. Deterrence works—but only when the consequences are real, clearly defined, and proportional to the harm that an attack on critical infrastructure can inflict on public safety and economic security.

The point of contact for this letter is Dr. Tony Campbell, reachable at (443) 956-0108, or tony.campbell1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Collins
Brigadier General, Maryland Army National Guard
Deputy Adjutant General