



GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION

Committee: Economic Matters Committee
Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian
Testimony on: HB 531 – Utility Regulation – Consideration of Climate and Labor
Position: Support
Hearing Date: February 27, 2020

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization submits this letter in support of HB 531, a bill to direct the Public Service Commission to consider climate impacts in its regulation of the energy sector, and, in particular, when reviewing applications for new electricity generating facilities. It would also require the Maryland agencies to consider climate impacts when providing input regarding such applications. This bill will align Maryland's electricity generating goals with leading science and join forward-thinking states with stronger emissions reduction requirements.

HB 531 would:

- Direct the Public Service Commission and other state agencies to consider impacts on climate when regulating the energy sector.
- Conform the energy sector, as regulated by Maryland State agencies, with the State's commitments to reducing dependence on fossil fuels, as reflected in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act and the Clean Energy Jobs Act.
- Resolve the concerns expressed by the Public Service Commission that it does not have an obligation under its governing authority to consider climate impacts.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- **Maryland would join communities in other states that have already set deadlines for achieving net zero emissions in their economies.**
- **Maryland would join communities reliant on science rather than politics for developing our children's futures.**
- **HB 531 will permit Maryland to meet clean renewable energy goals established in other statutes.**
- **The bill resolves the Public Service Commission's stance as a gatekeeper to meeting goals for properly-sited clean energy projects.**

Conclusion

This bill provides multiple benefits to Maryland citizens. Of principle importance to our organization, it supports Maryland's existing commitments towards and future development of clean energy. We urge a favorable report by this Committee.

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization is a group of local residents that meets regularly to discuss and take actions to make progressive change happen at the municipal, county, state and federal levels.