



An Exelon Company

Position Statement

OPPOSE
House Economic Matters
02/04/2021

Public Utilities - Office of Climate Counsel - Establishment (Climate Counsel Act)

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) opposes House Bill 30 - *Public Utilities - Office of Climate Counsel - Establishment (Climate Counsel Act)*. House Bill 30 would establish the position of Climate Counsel in the Office of Climate Counsel.

BGE does not support the establishment of the new position as it would be largely redundant to authorities and functions previously conferred upon the Maryland Department of Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Energy Administration for matters pending before the Commission. Furthermore, the scope of the involvement is unbounded in the bill and would not limit participation to protect the environmental interests of the state and its residents and could expand the scope of already complex proceedings unnecessarily. This duplication of effort and expansion of scope has the potential to increase the cost of proceedings before the Commission.

In addition, the funding of the climate counsel and related expenses would duplicate the current treatment of the Public Service Commission and the Office of People's Counsel, in that the funding assessment is a cost ultimately borne by utility customers.

For these reasons, BGE opposes House Bill 30 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report by the Committee on this legislation.