



March 4, 2022

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 708 – Comprehensive Climate Solutions

Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) and Choptank Electric Cooperative (Choptank), we appreciate the General Assembly's work to produce thoughtful legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland but have concerns with House Bill 708 as written. This bill may impede our ability to deliver reliable and affordable electricity to Maryland residents by requiring overly burdensome and premature developments to a renewable energy infrastructure in an effort to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

ODEC is a not-for-profit wholesale generation and transmission electric cooperative owned exclusively by 11 not-for-profit retail distribution electric cooperatives that serve 1.5 million people in Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland, including Choptank's 55,000 members. We are dedicated to providing safe, affordable, reliable, and sustainable power. ODEC has reduced CO₂ emissions by 44% since 2005 and has a strategic goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. We are leading the way for electric cooperatives by enhancing our renewable energy portfolio (*See* the Criterion Wind Project in Garrett County), evaluating and investing in solar power and battery storage technology, and undertaking a variety of efforts to work toward a clean energy future.

As ODEC continues efforts to address climate change solutions, we are dependent on our state-of-the-art, natural gas combined-cycle power plant in Cecil County, Wildcat Point Generation Facility, to provide nearly 1,000 MW of clean, reliable power to the citizens of Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware. The facility, which was permitted by Maryland in 2014, came online in 2018 to meet growing energy needs and to reduce power imports into Maryland. Therefore, we raise concerns that House Bill 708 and its 2045 goal, as written, may negatively impact our ability to meet our dual goals of providing reliable and affordable power while also reducing emissions. We would encourage the Committee to consider a later date for the state's net-zero target.

ODEC and Choptank remain dedicated to reducing CO₂ emissions, and we look forward to working with the Committee, the bill's sponsors, and other stakeholders to help Maryland achieve its clean energy and CO₂ reduction goals. For more information, please contact Stephanie Kane, ODEC's Director of Government Relations, at skane@odec.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirk Johnson".

Kirk Johnson
Senior VP, Member Engagement
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Tefteau".

Matt Tefteau
Government Affairs Manager
Choptank Electric Cooperative