



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate C. T. Wilson
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building – Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in support of HB 910 and hope for a favorable report.

HB 910 requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish targets for the deployment of new energy storage devices in Maryland, including lithium battery, thermal, hydroelectric, and mobile projects. Energy storage projects allow electricity to be saved for later and be redistributed back into the grid when and where it is most needed. The storage enables consumers and utilities to save money, improve reliability and resilience, integrate diverse energy sources, and help to reduce environmental impacts from energy generation.¹

The Energy Storage bill requires the PSC to establish and implement the Maryland Storage Program to meet energy storage goals. The bill requires the PSC to set new cumulative energy storage capacity targets at 750 MWh by the end of 2027, 1500 MWh by 2030, and 3000 MWh by 2033. HB 910 is consistent with recommendations from other states in establishing market-based incentives and storage goals.²

Experts agree that continued reliance on fossil fuels will exacerbate climate change impacts and continue to place pressure on the aging electric grid.³ Our power grid is increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters which are becoming more frequent and more extreme due to climate change.⁴ Two years ago Winter Storm Uri overwhelmed the electrical grid in Texas and left millions of people without power in freezing conditions.⁵ The extreme weather caused demand for electricity to surge beyond 67 GWh and nearly five million Texans lost power as the electric grid

¹ Energy Storage Association, *Benefits of Energy Storage*. American Clean Power, Why Energy Storage (n. d.), <https://energystorage.org/why-energy-storage/benefits/>

² Glen Andersen, Laura Shields, and Jeremy Twitchell, *Energy Storage for a Modern Electric Grid: Technology Trends and State Policy Options*. National Conference of State Legislatures (Sep. 22, 2021), <https://www.ncsl.org/energy/energy-storage-for-a-modern-electric-grid-technology-trends-and-state-policy-options>

³ Det Norske Veritas, *Grid under strain: How energy storage is the key to a reliable grid*. DNV (n. d.), <https://www.dnv.com/article/grids-under-strain-how-energy-storage-is-the-key-to-a-reliable-grid-227340>

⁴ Department of Energy, *Reimagining and rebuilding America's energy grid*. Energy.gov (Jun. 10, 2021), <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/how-energy-storage-works>

⁵ Rachel Monroe, *Why Texas's Power Grid Still Hasn't Been Fixed*. The New Yorker, Letter from the Southwest (Feb. 9, 2022), [newyorker.com/news/letter-from-the-southwest/why-texas-power-grid-still-hasnt-been-fixed](https://www.newyorker.com/news/letter-from-the-southwest/why-texas-power-grid-still-hasnt-been-fixed)

failed to compensate.⁶ Storage can reduce costs for utilities, save families and businesses money, and prevent costly disruptions associated with power outages.

Storage is integral to making renewable energy sources—like wind and solar—financially, and logistically viable at the scale needed to decarbonize the power grid, improve reliability, and combat climate change. Energy storage can augment the power grid with a clean power reservoir and offer an alternative to relying on fossil fuel 'peaker' plants that only operate during periods of extremely high demand for electricity.⁷ By suppling storage facilities with energy generated from renewable sources, we can reduce emissions and increase community resilience. Storage can reduce demand for electricity from inefficient, polluting power plants that are often located in low-income and overburdened communities.⁸

Improving energy efficiency can lower individual utility bills, create jobs, and help stabilize electricity prices and volatility.⁹ In 2018 energy storage supported over 71,000 jobs and the industry is expected to continue to grow.¹⁰ New energy storage resources in Maryland will generate \$1.3 billion in investments and create over 1,500 jobs in Maryland communities.¹¹

Thank you for your consideration, I hope for a favorable report and look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

⁶ Id., at 5

⁷ Union of Concerned Scientists, *Energy Storage: How It Works and Its Role in an Equitable Clean Energy Future*. Union of Concerned Scientists, Reports & Multimedia (Oct. 4, 2021), <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/how-energy-storage-works>

⁸ Id., at 8

⁹ Id., at 1

¹⁰ Id., at 1

¹¹ American Clean Power Association, *Energy Storage in Maryland*. ACP (n.d.), <https://cleanpower.org/facts/clean-energy-storage/>