



Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce

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**TESTIMONY OF EDESEL M. BROWN JR.
HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 793
(THE POWER ACT)**

Monday, March 6, 2023

1pm

Good afternoon Chairman Wilson, and members of the Economic Matters Committee. My name is Edsel M. Brown Jr., I live in Lusby, Maryland, and I am the Chairman of the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce, serving Calvert, Charles, Saint Mary's, and Southern PG Counties.

Our organization fully supports the aims of House bill 793 "The Power Act."

Energy is an area that hits home for all of us. It has implications on our household and business budgets, our labor force, our environment, our present and our future. Wind energy has grown to be a significant component of our power supply and is an essential part of our present and future. This bill takes note of this fact and takes steps to vastly improve the landscape relative to Wind energy here in Maryland.

The Power Act will among other things, expand our target goal of producing wind energy to 8.5 gigawatts, improve labor standards, and facilitate the construction of a shared transmission infrastructure.

Wind energy development is costly and competitive, this bill will make Maryland far more competitive to offshore wind developers to invest here. And the improved energy capacity will come without any air pollution.

On behalf of the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to vote in favor of The Power Act, House Bill 793

Thank you, Economic Matters Committee, for the opportunity to speak and offer to answer questions you may have.