



**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Testimony on:** SB0697 - Energy Storage – Targets and Maryland Energy Storage Program  
**Organization:** Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition  
**Submitting:** Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 28, 2023

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB697. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB697.

As Maryland transitions to renewable energy, electricity storage will need to play a greater role in grid reliability. SB697 requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish the Maryland Energy Storage Program (Program) and set targets for the deployment of new energy storage devices. The bill's targets are: at least a cumulative total of 750 megawatt-hours (MWh) by the end of the 2027 PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) delivery year; 1,500 MWh by the end of the 2030 PJM delivery year; and 3,000 MWh by the end of the 2033. The bill calls for a PSC report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2023 on pending Program design and any statutory changes needed to fully implement an effective Program to meet energy storage targets.

Wind and solar energy generation are not constant like traditional power plants. Wind and solar can work well together, with onshore wind usually strongest at night, offshore wind strongest in the afternoon and evening, and solar strongest during the day. However, excess power at peak times of wind and solar generation can be stored, and batteries can kick in to supply electricity at times of high consumer demand (and low points for wind and solar generation). The intent of the bill is to ensure that Maryland has an effective energy storage program.

There are however, several safety considerations that should be addressed either in the bill or during implementation of the Program. Battery storage facilities can catch fire and often local fire departments are not sufficiently equipped and trained to deal with battery fires. In addition, battery storage facilities must be located far enough away from populations and other facilities to mitigate any safety hazards. These health and safety measures must be addressed, including proper pre-incident planning by fire departments, appropriate fire-fighting equipment, and

training. Battery storage facility siting must take into account the neighboring community and facilities must be built sufficiently far away from residential areas, schools, hospitals, and other such facilities.

With these safeguards properly addressed, we support SB697 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.