



TESTIMONY For HB0910

Energy Storage - Targets and Maryland Energy Storage Program - Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0910 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

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. We believe that it is the intent of the bill to ensure that the state have adequate battery storage, and also to ensure that it is safe and appropriately sited. For these reasons, we strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.