



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Members, House Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Paul Pinsky - Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB 552 - Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)
DATE: February 16, 2023

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) encourages the committee's support of House Bill 552. Maryland is in a critical state in its transition to a clean energy economy. Although technology related to clean energy generation, energy storage, and greenhouse gas abatement and sequestration has advanced greatly, there is still a significant need for innovation, and therefore there is a need to foster innovation in the energy space.

Maryland's goals for the equitable, responsible, and effective build-out of a clean energy grid are bold, but achievable. Still, more can be done to ensure our trajectory toward those goals and innovation has the potential to further accelerate the cleaning of our State's interwoven energy networks while reducing costs. Innovative action is needed to help address the very real challenges that lie ahead.

Shifting goals, changes in population, continuing supply chain disruptions, and the electrification of both buildings and the transportation sector will significantly alter electricity demand and demand patterns over the next two decades. Additionally, the source of our energy is also rapidly evolving. In the near future, substantial offshore wind developments will begin supplying Maryland with fairly tremendous amounts of electricity. Additionally, solar development will continue to expand.

Maryland is ahead of the game when it comes to addressing these and other challenges. We already have in place a process for adapting the planning process for our electricity distribution grids. This will allow our state to prioritize the inclusion of emerging technologies, such as energy storage, distributed energy resources, and vehicle-to-grid, or "V2G", technologies. These resources at our disposal can help ensure grid reliability and resiliency, while promoting equity and reducing the need for other infrastructure investments.

HB 552 will complement these existing efforts, by ensuring that Maryland not only leads on the implementation of energy goals, but also becomes a driving force in the development of the technologies that will make these goals a reality.

For the forgoing reasons, MEA is asking the committee for a **FAVORABLE** report.