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**To:** The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chairman, and Members of the House Appropriations Committee

**From:** Joel Rozner

**Re:** HB1154: Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Domestic Terrorism Response

**Date:** March 1, 2024

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Attached, please find written testimony submitted by George Anas with Berkshire Hathaway GT&S in support of HB1154: Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Domestic Terrorism Response.



**SB755/HB1154: Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Domestic Terrorism Response**

POSITION: Support

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support SB755/HB1154 for the establishment of the Office of Domestic Terrorism within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

Berkshire Hathaway Energy GT&S owns a majority stake in Cove Point LNG, which has been exporting liquefied natural gas since 2018 to countries and allies worldwide. With infrastructure in Maryland and across the country in nine other Berkshire Hathaway Energy business units, physical security is of paramount importance to our company.

In consideration of domestic terrorism as it relates to critical infrastructure (gas, electric, water utility, fiber optic, cable network, wireless communications, data centers, ports, and other) the establishment of the Office of Domestic Terrorism will create an opportunity to develop and promote awareness of the importance of physical infrastructure security on these systems in Maryland.

Across the country attacks on critical infrastructure are on the rise. In two separate examples just last December, vandals in North Carolina damaged a substation leaving 34,000 people without power. In Washington State, another group damaged four substations, leaving 14,000 people without power. As Maryland seeks to expand renewable energy in the state, new infrastructure will be needed to meet increased power demands and to transport energy from offshore and rural areas. This development will further expose the state's infrastructure to risk.

The Office of Domestic Terrorism will enable companies like ours to partner with Maryland to develop best-in-class practices and to promote the importance of physical security for all the state's critical infrastructure systems.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report on SB755/HB1154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George K. Anas".

George K. Anas  
Director of External Affairs