



**Choptank Electric
Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

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February 22, 2024

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: *Support- HB 579- Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals- Definition of Generations Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)*

Dear Chairman Wilson:

Founded in 1938, Choptank Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that exists to provide reliable and cost-effective electricity. This service improves the quality of life for our 56,142 member-owners.

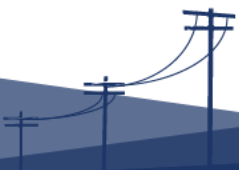
As a cooperative, Choptank Electric maintains a deep commitment to the communities it serves, which covers about two-thirds of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Economic development, especially in our rural areas, is necessary in providing additional resources to our schools and communities, and in improving the livelihood of all residents. Choptank Fiber, LLC is a wholly owned broadband subsidiary of Choptank Electric Cooperative. Choptank Fiber's goal is to install true Gigabit broadband with no data caps one community at a time until we serve all our underserved members on the Eastern Shore.

HB 579 seeks to bring economic vitality and clarity to the current CPCN approval process for back-up generation, which is needed for data centers. This bill would level the playing field and attract data center business to Maryland and support the state as a leader in innovation and investment in cyber and information technology.

Choptank Electric Cooperative and its member-owners ask you to support **HB 579**.

Sincerely,

Matt Tefteau
Manager of Government Affairs and Economic Development
Choptank Electric Cooperative



Members First. Every Day.