



**LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SB 536 / HB 680**

**ENVIRONMENT - NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
(RADIATION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PROTECTION ACT)**

**HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo.) Emergency Managers Affiliate **SUPPORTS SB 536 / HB 680 – Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act**. This bill protects the public from unnecessary and harmful exposure to radiation resulting from a nuclear incident.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), who spearheads responses to all nuclear incidents, has several duties related to nuclear incident response, including: 1) responding to emergencies that involve a nuclear power plant; 2) participating in the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) radiological emergency preparedness program; and 3) procuring specialized supplies and equipment for emergency response involving a nuclear power plant. To support the completion of these tasks, fees should be collected as stipulated by the bill to supplement the operational costs of MDE's Radiation Emergency Response Program, MDE's radiological emergency response preparedness, and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management's (MDEM) radiological emergency response activities.

It is the policy of the State of Maryland to protect the public against the adverse effects of nuclear incidents and mitigate the impacts of such incidents by establishing a state of readiness through emergency preparedness. As an affiliate group comprised of Maryland's local emergency managers, we understand fully the importance of this goal, as it is also our duty to ensure the preservation of public safety and welfare in the event of a nuclear incident that can precipitate catastrophic consequences, including the unwarranted and lethal exposure of the public to radiation.

One of the most effective strategies to protect the public from such exposure is the establishment of a robust emergency response infrastructure. This includes having the requisite resources and personnel to ensure a swift and effective response to any nuclear incident. To best support this strategy, it would be appropriate for the nuclear industry to bear some of the costs associated with developing and implementing plans to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of nuclear incidents by having owners of the power plants remit the fees required in this bill.

By enacting legislation that funds emergency preparedness and responses to nuclear incidents, the State not only ensures the availability of essential resources and personnel, but also reinforces its dedication to safeguarding public safety and welfare. Therefore, the Emergency Managers Affiliate urges this Committee to give **SB 536 / HB 680** a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

*Preeti Emrick*

PREETI EMRICK  
MACO EM AFFILIATE PRESIDENT