



February 20, 2024

Maryland House of Delegates
The Honorable CT Wilson, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, our 26-member Board of Directors, and the over 940 public, private and nonprofit organizations that make up the membership of the Chamber to enthusiastically support HB 579, Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024).

After a careful review of the Moore Administration's draft bill, consideration of the Maryland Public Service Commission's record of decision on the Aligned Data Center application, and the resultant confusion over the PSC's ultimate decision, it is plainly evident that the decision regarding the provision of emergency power generation for critical infrastructure facilities should NOT be subject to the same regulatory regime put in place to permit electrical power generation facilities.

Governor Moore and his team have identified, and the PSC has confirmed, that a clearer regulatory regime for emergency/backup power generation for critical infrastructure is necessary.

This bill provides for that and will make an important distinction between these backup systems and primary power generation facilities. We urge you to adopt a FAVORABLE position on this bill and bring this before the full House for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard B. Weldon, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard B. Weldon, Jr.

President/CEO

Frederick County Chamber of Commerce