



Bill: SB 474/HB 579- Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)

Position: SUPPORT

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

On behalf of the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions (MCIES), a trade association promoting the inclusivity of all energy sources to meet the state's energy needs, I am writing to support SB 474/HB 579.

This proposed bill aims to redefine the term "generating station" to provide certain exemptions for generating facilities used for onsite emergency backup and test and maintenance operations. These exemptions would apply under specific circumstances, including the installation of equipment preventing the flow of electricity to the electric grid and compliance with a permit to construct issued by the Department of the Environment.

The bill acknowledges the critical role that generating facilities, such as technologies relying on natural gas or diesel, currently play in ensuring the reliability of electricity supply during emergencies, such as natural disasters or grid failures. This 24/7 reliability is critical for facilities such as data centers and military uses. By exempting true backup generation from the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity, House Bill 579 will streamline the regulatory process, reduce unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles, and ultimately promote the resilience and preparedness of our state's critical infrastructure, while promoting economic development in Maryland.

Sincerely,

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

George Anas
President