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Chair, Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and  
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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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***TESTIMONY – SENATE BILL 536***

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

***EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE***

***MARCH 5, 2024***

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 536 is a very straightforward attempt to protect Maryland citizens and to better ingrain our nuclear emergency management preparedness apparatus into code.

Under this bill, we'd simply formalize some existing practices and firmly establish the roles of both MDE (the Maryland Department of the Environment) and MDEM (the Maryland Department of Emergency Management) in responding to any type of nuclear power-related or radiation exposure incident. Coincidentally, the bill establishes the Radiation Emergency Response Program within the Maryland Department of Environment and puts in place corresponding fees for nuclear power plant owners for each plant that they own.

Through consultation with the Maryland Department of Environment, The Maryland Department of Emergency Management, and Constellation Energy (the only Maryland-based Power Plant operator that would be impacted by the implementation costs of these statutory changes). I believe this bill to be to a very reasonable and effective means of improving our overall emergency preparedness infrastructure in the unlikely event of any sort of nuclear power-related incident.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 536.**