



Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

**FAVORABLE - SB536**

**Environment - Nuclear Power Plants - Emergency Preparedness  
(Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act)**

Maryland Department of Emergency Management  
Hearing Date: 5 MAR 2024

Chair Brian Feldman  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Feldman,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in support of SB536 - Environment - Nuclear Power Plants - Emergency Preparedness (Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act)**. The bill codifies the radiation emergency response program under the Department of the Environment and outlines a fee requirement for nuclear power plant operators. A portion of this fee will go to MDEM to offset costs incurred conducting preparedness activities related to nuclear power plant accident or incident response and recovery.

MDEM is the coordinating agency for all hazards facing the State. We work closely with the Department of Environment (MDE) to establish and maintain the nuclear power plant preparedness program. We are the conduit between State government and the federal Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP) within the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

As a State with nuclear power plants, we are required by FEMA to plan, organize and execute a number of trainings and exercises for State and local governments; maintain emergency response plans; support local jurisdictions in developing and maintaining their own emergency response plans; and attend various REPP meetings and trainings throughout the year. The hazards faced by nuclear power plants are unique and require dedicated preparedness efforts. The fee assessed will ensure continued funding of these critical preparedness programs at both MDE and MDEM.



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**In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of SB536 - Environment - Nuclear Power Plants - Emergency Preparedness (Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act).**

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:  
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