



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1112
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES - ACQUISITION**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1112 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

In our current energy environment, the Public Service Commission will actually pay power plant operators to keep old, coal burning power plants open because closing them will cause too much of a disruption to our energy grid. One would expect the Public Service Commission to have long since tried to find another, cleaner source of power to replace the power that comes from aging, polluting power plants, but so far, that has not happened.

This bill, if enacted, would require the Public Service Commission to start the process of finding a replacement by evaluating whether energy storage devices can serve as a cost-effective alternative to reliability-must-run agreements with power plants and, if they can, to take appropriate actions to facilitate energy storage development. It also requires that whenever any utility-scale energy storage devices or facilities are built, the contractors pay prevailing wages to workers and hire registered apprentices to perform at least 12.5% of the total work hours involved.

We need our Public Service Commission to be forward looking and solution oriented. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.