



Committee: Economic Matters
Testimony on: HB0505 – ENERGIZE Act
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Unfavorable
Hearing Date: February 21, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today on HB505. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations respectfully urges you to vote unfavorably on HB505.

We appreciate that HB505 affirms the state goal of achieving 100% clean electricity and is intended to address the need for energy reliability and the significant increase in utility rates that are unnerving ratepayers in Maryland today. These are important issues to address.

However, we believe the solutions proposed in HB505 will not result in greater energy reliability in the timeframe needed (1-2 years) and will increase rather than lower electric rates in Maryland. We also believe HB505 does not adequately take into account solutions to provide long-term energy reliability at lower cost to ratepayers. In contrast, we support several other bills and policies that offer no-regrets solutions more likely to result in near-term (and long-term) reliability improvements at lower costs, while also allowing Maryland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Examples of these policies include incentives for utility scale battery storage and solar (both utility scale and community solar) and getting more out of the grid we have through grid enhancing technologies and reconductoring.

The proposed provisions in HB505 to add nuclear energy to the renewable portfolio standard and implement a procurement structure for new nuclear generation will not bring new generation to Maryland for years if not decades, and could actually undermine the state's transition to efficient and economical renewable energy. The Georgia Power Vogtle Units 3 and 4 took 15 years to build and cost \$36.8 billion, more than twice the project timeline and cost (see [costs for Georgia nuclear plant](#)). The Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems [NuScale Power](#) small modular nuclear reactor project was initially projected to cost \$3 billion and ultimately rose to \$9.6 billion, at which point the project was shelved. Furthermore, a 2014 [academic study](#) looked at 180 nuclear power projects around the world and found 175 of them exceeded the initial budget

by an average of 117% and took, on average, 64% longer to build. The levelized capital cost of electricity production of [nuclear is three times the cost of solar](#).

It also seems premature to offer long-term and extremely expensive nuclear energy solutions without conducting the integrated energy resource planning envisioned in HB1037/SB909 Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act. We believe there are more expeditious and lower cost solutions, such as those proposed in HB398/SB316 Abundant Affordable Clean Energy Act and HB1225/SB908 Affordable Grid Act, which should be enacted this year.

For these reasons, the MLC Climate Justice Wing respectfully urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report in Committee.

350MoCo

Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

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