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Date: February 19, 2025  
To: Members of the House Committee on Economic Matters  
From: Grayson Middleton, Government Affairs Manager  
Re: HB 1149 – PSC - Full Costs and Benefits Analysis of Sources of Electricity Generation – **Support**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, companies, and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware supports HB 1149 and urges a favorable committee report.

HB 1149 would require the Public Service Commission to analyze the full costs and benefits of sources of electricity in the State of Maryland. It also requires the commission to include recommended policy changes to support the development of energy sources with the lowest costs and greatest benefits to ratepayers of the State.

Rising electricity costs in Maryland have affected every citizen. However, these higher rates have been particularly damaging for chicken farmers, who already count electricity as their highest input cost. Farmers on Delmarva have seen a 6% average annual increase in their rates, and these have consistently been 7% higher than the national average for commercial customers. Compounded by weather events, HPAI, unfavorable markets, and government regulation, these costs have put an enormous amount of pressure on our farmers. We believe the State should make every effort to investigate avenues to reduce electric costs for our producers, and as such, we urge a **favorable** report.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [middleton@dcahicken.com](mailto:middleton@dcahicken.com) or 410-490-3329.

Sincerely,

Grayson Middleton

Government Affairs Manager