

**Testimony Against HB1035/SB937 – Public Utilities - Electricity Generation Planning - Procurement, Permitting, and Co-Location (Next Generation Energy Act)**

Long ago, we tamed the flame,  
A spark that set mankind aflame.  
With warmth and light, we built, we grew,  
And fire's gifts, we always knew.

But then we learned to burn much more,  
Coal and oil—a reckless score.  
The steam engine roared, the smokestacks  
rose,  
And with them, carbon's deadly dose.

Each fire burned, each pipe exhaled,  
A warming Earth, our fate was nailed.  
CO<sub>2</sub>—a ghost unseen,  
Wrapped our world in heat obscene.

The sun's own rays, once free to fly,  
Are trapped beneath a thickened sky.  
Storms now rage, the waters rise,  
A warning flashing in our skies.

Droughts take hold, the forests fry,  
Tornadoes twist, the oceans cry.  
Hurricanes carve paths of woe,  
Yet still, we let the carbon flow.

A gas plant here? That makes no sense!  
With all we know, at such expense?  
Three billion dollars, tossed away,  
For fuel that darkens each new day.

Instead, let winds and sun take flight,  
Their power pure, their future bright.  
Clean energy—our guiding hand,  
A greener path for Maryland.

So, I urge you, take a stand,  
Turn from fire, heal this land.  
Reject this bill, invest instead  
In winds that turn and suns that spread.

The time is now, we cannot wait,  
The choice is ours—decide our fate.

Submitted by:

David Saunders, CC-P  
18 Roland Green  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
410-456-8542  
davidsaunders107@gmail.com  
Climate Change Professional (CC-P),  
Certified by the Association of Climate  
Change Officers  
Co-author, *Four Days with Dr. Deming* (10th  
printing)

02/26/2025