

To:

Re: HB1035 Public Utilities - Electricity Generation Planning - Procurement, Permitting, and Co-Location (Next Generation Energy Act)

From: Elaine S. Wilson

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UNFAVORABLE

I am a member and co-clerk of Friends Meeting of Washington, the Quaker Meeting in Washington DC, and a resident of Silver Spring, MD, as are many members of our faith community. Quakers have a deep commitment to the stewardship of our planet and in ensuring that every person and living thing has access to clean air and water that are so important to sustaining life and making life worthwhile. I am deeply concerned that we keep to the goals of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 as a path to ensure that we are bequeathing to our children and grandchildren the world we want to live in.

As a faith leader I urge an unfavorable report on HB1035, the Next Generation Energy Act.

The Next Generation Energy Act will allow for new gas plants to be constructed in Maryland. This will not solve the issue of high utility bills because of the time that it takes to get a new gas plant up and running. These fossil fuel powered plants may take years before they are creating energy that can be distributed to the public, whereas clean energy alternatives like batteries or solar can be online much faster. If the goal is to lower energy bills in the state, a new gas plant is not the most effective strategy.

Additionally, the cost of building the type of a gas plant approved in this bill is equal to \$1000 per kilowatt of energy produced. This means a new gas plant could cost Maryland \$3 billion dollars. This is far too expensive an investment to make with no immediate relief on utility bills.

The state has set a goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2031 and Governor Moore issued an executive order last spring to create a framework to reach 100% clean energy by 2035. To achieve either of these goals, the state should be investing in clean and renewable energy rather than allowing for gas provisions.

I have been active with the Beyond Gas movement in the region. As such I am acutely aware of the effects that gas has on health and in particularly those of our underserved communities. The pollution that will result from a new gas plant will wreak havoc on the health of Marylanders, particularly those who live in overburdened and underserved communities that are already facing

the unequal effects of climate change and fossil fuel pollution. The greenhouse gas and particulate emissions that will be produced by a new gas plant will increase Maryland residents' chances of pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases, developing asthma, strokes, and premature death. The people of Maryland deserve to keep their lights on without putting their health and climate at risk.

Sincerely,

Elaine S. Wilson