



**Testimony Supporting HB 1406  
House Economic Matters Committee  
February 21st, 2025**

**Position:** FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrea Orozco, I work as the Faithful Advocacy Lead at Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVa) and I am here today to respectfully request a **favorable report** on **HB 1406, the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Environmental Impact Analysis and Existing Burden Report**.

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVa) is a grassroots organization working with over 1,200 congregations across the state and thousands more individuals. We work to support these communities and people of faith as they live in their values to care for our common home and our most vulnerable neighbors. This includes going green in their houses of worship and speaking out, like today, for creation care and environmental justice.

We believe that we all deserve to live and worship in healthy communities and HB 1406 would ensure we have the tools necessary to protect our most impacted communities from new polluting facilities. Our processes should be working for and with people. By allowing the Public Service Commission (PSC) to reject or alter applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCNs) based on an environmental justice score and requiring facilities that are granted permits to pay into a Cumulative Impacts Mitigation Fund Agreement aimed at addressing health impacts, Maryland can preserve the dignity and health of our communities.

Psalm 24:1 reads, "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Because the earth and all who live on it were created by God, it is our duty to preserve our common home and we have no right to pollute and harm the life on it.

For generations, we have made decisions about locating harmful, unhealthy, and dangerous facilities in ways that have overburdened many communities in the state, especially communities of color and low-wealth communities. HB 1406 would give us the opportunity to prevent further harm to our already

overly impacted neighbors and ensure we are working to redress the health harms we have heard about today.

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVa) supports the sponsor amendments being introduced at the hearing and urges a favorable report on HB 1406.