



February 28, 2025

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

**Quaker Voice of Maryland is submitting this testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1035 - Next Generation Energy Act.**

Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM) is a faith-based advocacy group that advocates for policies that are just, compassionate, equitable, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live. Quakers across Maryland have shared with our group their concern about climate change. Quakers deeply believe in the stewardship of the Earth, viewing it as a sacred gift from God and we consider it our responsibility to care for all of creation.

Global climate change is real and poses huge threats to life as we know it on earth. It is vitally important, particularly at this time, that Maryland continue to make progress on and expand upon our clean energy goals.

QVM is concerned that HB 1035 is a policy approach that is contrary to Maryland's emissions goals. The provisions in this bill include fast tracking construction of up to 3.1 gigawatts of new gas-fired power plants in Maryland. This will increase greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland for generations, which sets the state back in reaching its lower emissions goals and is unnecessary. Instead, we encourage legislators to support provisions of HB 398, the Abundant, Affordable Clean Energy Act, which addresses our need for more energy through battery storage and bolstering clean energy solutions.

**At this time, when federal progress on climate change goals is stalled, it is important for Maryland to be a national leader in decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels.** Building a new gas fired electricity plant takes Maryland away from being that national leader.

We encourage an UNFAVORABLE report for HB 1035.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bur Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland

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