



HB1225- ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLANS- ESTABLISHMENT (AFFORDABLE GRID ACT)

TESTIMONY OF BRITTANY BAKER, MARYLAND POLICY DIRECTOR AT THE CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

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

The Affordable Grid Act would require the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations to require electric companies to develop an electric distribution system plan that would help lower costs and help the state reach its climate and clean energy goals. The plan would need approval from the Commission and would be redeveloped every three years to keep the plan up to date with the latest information and technology.

The Public Service Commission would require electric companies to implement policies for improvements that help the state reach its targets for the expansion of solar energy, building electrification, energy storage capacity, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The implementation of clean energy sources will be beneficial to lowering ratepayers' utility bills, as households will use less energy and therefore pay less each month¹. Furthermore, HB1225 dictates that the Commission be responsible for updating and creating metrics to assess the electric distribution system's reliability and management of peak-load reduction programs, dynamic pricing programs, and hosting capacity status and expansion.

Another critical component of the Affordable Grid Act is its element of transparency. The bill requires the establishment of an information sharing network for the exchange of data between electric companies, gas companies, electricity suppliers and the public during the planning process.

As Maryland begins to shift toward clean energy goals, it is imperative that electric distribution system plans incorporate climate smart technology and energy sources, while also keeping in mind the cost to ratepayers. HB1225 seeks to make sure that both the environment and ratepayers are considered and protected in the process of developing electric distribution system plans.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1225.

¹<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/clean-energy-will-lower-household-energy-costs/>