



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

BILL NO.: House Bill 1329 – Public Utilities – Energy Generation and Transmission

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters Committee

HEARING DATE: February 20, 2025

POSITION: Favorable

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1329. This legislation is an essential step forward in ensuring Maryland's energy security, reliability, and economic resilience by expanding in-state energy generation. By restoring Maryland's ability to develop its own generation resources—including natural gas and nuclear—this bill provides a critical solution to the state's reliance on imported power and prevents the unnecessary expansion of costly, intrusive transmission infrastructure.

A Critical Investment in Maryland's Economic Future

House Bill 1329 is not just an energy bill; it is an economic development strategy for Maryland. Our organization drafted some analysis currently being validated, please see the attached file for details. Constructing **four 1,000 MW combined-cycle natural gas power plants** across Maryland could generate **approximately 9,000 construction jobs over two years** and provide **560 permanent, high-paying jobs** to Maryland.

The wages from construction alone could contribute between **\$1.2 billion and \$1.5 billion**, while permanent operations would generate **\$50 million annually in wages**. These projects would also provide substantial **state and local tax revenue**, supporting infrastructure, schools, and public services.

By comparison, **PSEG's Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) claims to generate just \$306 million over 30 years**, amounting to a mere **\$10 million per year**. This is insignificant when compared to the **billions in economic impact** generated by in-state power plants, which keep jobs and revenue in Maryland.

In-State Generation vs. Overbuilt Transmission: A Smarter Investment

HB1329 prioritizes **energy independence, local job creation, and economic stability**, whereas the MPRP provides no new generation capacity while exposing Maryland ratepayers to **\$500 million in annual costs**. The MPRP is an infrastructure project designed to **transfer energy, not generate it**, offering **minimal local benefit while permanently damaging Maryland's landscapes**.



By contrast, investing in **four strategically sited natural gas power plants** will:

- **Reduce Maryland's 40% reliance on imported electricity**, improving grid reliability.
- **Create thousands of high-paying jobs**, boosting local economies.
- **Generate billions in economic activity**, far exceeding the limited financial benefits of large-scale transmission expansion.
- **Provide dispatchable, on-demand power**, ensuring reliability as Maryland continues integrating renewable energy sources.

Environmental and Land Preservation Benefits

Unlike the MPRP, which would destroy nearly **900 acres of forests, farmland, and wetlands**, the four new power plants can be located at sites of former or retiring power plants, existing industrial zones, or brownfield locations. This approach **prevents unnecessary land destruction** while **leveraging existing energy infrastructure** to minimize environmental impact.

Conclusion

House Bill 1329 is the right solution for Maryland's energy, economic, and environmental future. It ensures that Maryland generates sufficient power to meet growing demand, **creates thousands of high-quality jobs**, and prevents the reckless destruction of conserved lands for unnecessary transmission projects.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on HB1329.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Frederick

President

Stop MPRP, Inc.

joanne.frederick@stopmprp.org

443.789.1382