

**HB1035/SB937 - UNFAVORABLE**  
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**HB1035/SB937- Public Utilities - Electricity Generation Planning -  
Procurement, Permitting, and Co-Location (Next Generation Energy  
Act)**

Joint Meeting of Education, Energy and the Environment Committee and the Economic Matters  
Committee  
February 28th, 2025

Chair Feldman, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Kagan, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the  
Education, Energy, and the Environment and Economic Matters Committees,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, I urge an unfavorable report on  
HB1035/SB937, 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.

Furthermore, a new gas plant would be counterproductive in helping Maryland reach its climate  
goals set forth in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. 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.

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.

Finally, to put it in the simplest terms, the reason why renewable energy is so much less expensive in the long run is that it **uses the free energy we get every day from the sun**, while fossil fuel based power plants must **pay every day for the fuel that they run on**. It should be a 'no-brainer' that renewable energy is the only answer to Maryland citizens' outrageously high gas and electric bills.

I respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB1035/SB937.