



HB1037

Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act Testimony before Economic Matters Committee

February 28, 2025

Position: Favorable

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander and I represent the 900+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB1037**. We appreciate the leadership of Vice Chair Crosby for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act addresses an urgent need raised by recent events in Maryland's energy markets. PJM has held up hundreds of renewable energy projects in its grid integration queue, thus holding up needed low-cost energy supply. In addition, PJM failed to appropriately manage retirement of the Brandon Shores and Wagner coal plants in 2025 resulting in State ratepayers needing to pay nearly \$800M to keep the plants open, Beyond that, a 2024 campaign by AI developers to build new hyperscale data centers in the state has led to turmoil around the data centers' large expected draw on the State's overall energy supply. These events and others have made plain the need for State energy planning independent of PJM.

HB1037 would establish an **Integrated Resource Planning Office** in the Public Service Commission, with the goal of developing a 25-year comprehensive energy forecast for the State of Maryland. The new office will coordinate with other State agencies (e.g., MEA, MDE) for policy development which would include meeting state energy needs and GHG emissions reduction goals, and assessing the financial effects on State budgets and on ratepayers

Importantly, HB1037 complements another energy-related bill currently before the Assembly: HB 270, the Data Center Impact Analysis and Report. HB 270 calls for the MDE and the Maryland Energy Administration to carry out a study of the environmental, energy and economic effects of data center construction in the State.

HB1037 would provide a sound, objective base of analysis that would allow lawmakers to assess the bills and evaluate their merits.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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