



House Bill 1037

Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Economic Matters Committee

Date: February 28, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 1037 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill establishes the Integrated Resource Planning Office within the Public Service Commission, and charges that office with developing a 25-year comprehensive energy forecast.

The 2025 Maryland General Assembly faces an unprecedented set of generational challenges, with energy emerging as a top priority, second only to the daunting budget hurdles and stark changes in federal policies. As the State transitions toward renewable energy sources and full electrification, a predominant concern needs to be ensuring grid reliability and affordability for residents. One of the major faults in regulating Maryland's energy infrastructure has been an over-reliance on federal and regional actors, and insufficient planning at the state level. HB 1037 seeks to rectify this by developing a 25-year comprehensive energy forecast, which would empower Maryland policymakers to better respond to the state's energy needs.

Counties support the forward-thinking nature of HB 1037. As the state's partner in government, county governments are equally eager to better serve our mutual constituents, especially as they navigate these historic increases in energy costs. To that end, counties request a seat at the table as this forecast is developed and updated. As the boots on the ground in each community, counties have unique and nonobvious insights which can prove vital to such an effort.

HB 1037 is a good governance, common-sense bill which will help future policymakers avert the energy challenges currently facing our constituents. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 1037 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.

MACo Amendment to HB 1037:

On page 2, in line 24 strike "AND"; and in line 25, after ENVIRONMENT" insert "**AND**

THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES AND APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONALS WITHIN COUNTY GOVERNMENTS.".