

**HB1035/SB937 - UNFAVORABLE**

Amanda Preston

Private Citizen

[amandpa@gmail.com](mailto:amandpa@gmail.com)

304-767-8465

**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 myself, 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. Unfortunately, because of the time that it takes to build and begin operation of a new gas plant, this will not do anything in the near or perhaps even medium term to lower utility bills for Marylanders, who are very much feeling the impact of high energy prices – my last BGE bill was over \$300 for a house under 1700 sq. ft., despite keeping the thermostat under 70 degrees at all times. If the goal is to lower energy bills, a new gas plant is not the most effective strategy. Instead, we need to be investing in clean energy alternatives like batteries or solar, which can be online much faster.

Additionally, the cost of building the type of 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.

I respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB1035/SB937.

Sincerely,

Amanda Preston