

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,

As a Maryland resident, I urge an unfavorable report on HB1035/SB937, the Next Generation Energy Act.

The Next Generation Energy Act makes no sense from any point of view.

- 1) New gas plants will not solve the issue of high utility bills because it will take years to get a new gas plant up and running, 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 an effective strategy.
- 2) This type of a gas plant will cost Maryland \$3 billion dollars. With looming economic devastation from the massive Trump/Musk Federal layoffs and budget cuts, we simply cannot afford to throw away this amount of money for no immediate payoff.
- 3) A new gas plant would be counterproductive in helping Maryland reach its climate goals set forth in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Only a fool or a hopelessly corrupt person can deny the impact of climate change.
- 4) The pollution from the new gas plants will shorten the lives of Marylanders, particularly those who are already facing the unequal effects of climate change and fossil fuel pollution. It is thoroughly documented that particulate emissions increase 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.