



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: HB 1362 - Eminent Domain - Just Compensation - Fees and Costs
DATE: March 6, 2025

MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE

This bill would significantly alter Maryland's eminent domain process by expanding the damages awarded to include legal, expert, and other costs.

Eminent domain is an essential tool that allows for the construction of public-serving infrastructure, including clean energy projects, transportation networks, and utility expansions. By mandating that condemning entities cover additional costs beyond fair market value, this bill would increase the financial burden on the state, local governments, and taxpayers.

This bill would serve as a deterrent to Maryland's clean energy goals. By increasing the cost and complexity of eminent domain proceedings, this bill could slow the expansion of energy infrastructure during a time that needs accelerated deployment. Current infrastructure planning already involves extensive environmental and public review processes to ensure fairness and due compensation. This bill would add another layer of financial and legal uncertainty, creating additional obstacles to developing essential infrastructure.

For the reasons outlined above, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, directly at megan.outten@maryland.gov, 443-842-1780).