

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Jeff Knishkowy. I am a Maryland resident and I am writing today in opposition to HB1035, which would open the door to a new gas power plant being built in Maryland.

Regarding this bill, I can appreciate the fact that lowering the cost of electricity is an important goal this legislative session, and that increasing energy production is important for keeping Maryland competitive in attracting new businesses that create jobs and drive economic growth. However, it is essential that we achieve these goals through increased investments in solar power, utility-scale batteries, energy efficiency, and smart-grid technology. According to, among others, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, these efforts are faster, cheaper, and better for the environment and human health than a proposal to build a large new gas plant in the state.

I am disappointed that the MGA is considering a NEW fossil fuel plant when we've worked so hard to retire outdated, polluting ones. I was likewise disappointed to learn that the plant would likely rely on fracked gas, a practice that was wisely banned by this body.

A new gas power plant would make Maryland's important climate goals significantly harder to reach. The plant's carbon emissions would lead to economic, public health, and environmental harm in the hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Put simply, such a plant would be expensive to ratepayers, dangerous to nearby communities, and a misguided use of state resources.

Thank you, and I urge an unfavorable report.