

## **HB1035/SB937 - UNFAVORABLE**

Susy Cheston  
7117 Sycamore Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
[susy.cheston@gmail.com](mailto:susy.cheston@gmail.com)  
202-549-3656

### **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 longtime Maryland resident and volunteer with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), **I urge an unfavorable report on HB1035/SB937, the Next Generation Energy Act.**

When I met with our District 20 legislators on Monday night, it seemed everyone wants to do the right thing. That said, in light of skyrocketing energy costs, legislators feel pressure to look like they are doing something. Yet we are trusting our elected officials to do better than that—to use your leadership position to help others understand that “looking like” you’re doing something may be politically expedient, but it’s not in your constituents’ best interests.

Look, we live in a time when so many elected officials at state and especially federal levels are not rising to the moment. We are asking our leaders to lead!

Climate solutions are under attack, and positions are being taken at the state and federal levels that will affect all people on earth for generations to come. One member of our volunteer lobbying team is in his early 20s, and he expressed it well when he said, "A new gas-fired power plant would likely operate for much of the remainder of my life, pumping toxic greenhouse gases into the environment and advancing climate change while simultaneously raising environmental justice concerns."

I would therefore like to reiterate my strong **opposition to a new gas power plant** in Maryland, and my **support for Del.Charkoudian's AACE (Affordable Abundant Clean Energy) Act** which addresses Maryland's energy needs without saddling future generations with a costly, polluting methane gas power plant. I also want to urge attention to environmental justice in your decision-making.

I also want to alert you to the late-breaking news that data centers may not need the energy capacity that had originally been projected. In light of the emergence of the DeepSeek AI model, Microsoft has canceled some leases for data centers, raising questions on energy capacity estimates for the future.

The Next Generation Energy Act would allow for new gas plants to be constructed in Maryland. This is a bad idea, and Marylanders deserve better. It will take too long to help with high utility bills; it will be very expensive; it will pollute our state, wreaking havoc on the health of Marylanders; and it will go against our climate goals set forth in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

Please do not be hoodwinked by the utility companies into supporting a new gas power plant that Marylanders do not need and do not want. Please show the people of Maryland that in these trying times, our lawmakers will lead!

I respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB1035/SB937.

Susy Cheston