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February 28, 2025

SUPPORT: SB 909 Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB 909, The Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act and thanks Senator Hester for her leadership on this issue.

SB 909 proposes creating an Integrated Resource Planning Office in the Public Service Commission that would develop a 25-year comprehensive energy forecast with the purpose of analyzing energy scenarios and policy options for meeting the state's energy needs and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals while ensuring system reliability and cost-effectiveness.

Maryland faces several challenges including, increasing demand from energy-intensive industries, adverse impacts from climate change and rising electricity rates. The recent electricity capacity auction by our regional grid operator, PJM, resulted in an 800% increase in system-wide prices. In response, Governor Moore joined other PJM states to appeal to PJM and negotiated a rate cap on capacity charges for the next two years. This two-year price cap on capacity charges will likely offer some protections to ratepayers while allowing states to address critical energy challenges.

There is no doubt that decision makers, regulators, energy suppliers, utilities and ratepayers will benefit from the state charting the path forward for data-driven, sensible economic choices that keep the lights on and the air clean. Now is the time for Maryland to develop a comprehensive energy forecast, focused on reliability and affordability. SB 909 outlines extensive considerations for what should go into the forecast. Whether the office is an independent office at the PSC or created through existing resources at our state agencies, Maryland LCV supports the goals of this office.

Maryland LCV is committed to advancing clean energy solutions that increase grid reliability and decrease ratepayer impacts while achieving the state's climate goals. Comprehensive planning across transmission and distribution systems, with strong accountability for the grid operator, energy suppliers, and utilities is key to a safe, reliable, and clean energy future.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill.