

HB1035/SB937 - UNFAVORABLE

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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 28, 2025

Chair Feldman, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Kagan, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment and Economic Matters Committees,

We urge an unfavorable report on HB1035/SB937, the Next Generation Energy Act.

We are tired of electricity rate increases and do not think ratepayers should pay more than is reasonable and necessary to meet normal residential electricity needs, regardless of whether energy-hogging data centers are built in Maryland or not. Moreover, the state has a responsibility to pursue the generation of electricity at the lowest possible cost. The Next Generation Energy Act will enable the generation of electricity at the highest possible cost, through nuclear and methane gas plants.

It is well-documented that solar energy has become the cheapest form of energy generation (and the cost continues to drop). Maryland can meet its future electric energy needs by combining solar and wind generation with battery storage, and we can produce that energy right here in our state, without relying on out-of-state fracked gas.

And then there are the scientifically proven environmental and health consequences associated with burning methane gas and methane gas leaks. It's unconscionable that Maryland lawmakers would deliberately and unnecessarily take us in the opposite direction we need to be going, giving a gift to gas utilities and fracking and pipeline companies in the process.

Please do the right thing for Maryland ratepayers and for our young people, who face a dire future as it is without Maryland legislators polluting earth's atmosphere even more.

We urge an unfavorable report.