

SB0937: Public Utilities - Electricity Generation Planning - Procurement, Permitting, and Co-Location (Next Generation Energy Act)

Education, Energy, and the Environment: February 26, 2025

UNFAVORABLE

Testimony submitted by:

Ann Bristow, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, Frostburg State University
92 Carey Run, Frostburg, MD 21532. (Garrett County)

I am a public health professional and served as a **Commissioner on Gov. O'Malley's Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative**.

I am writing to specifically **oppose natural gas dispatchable energy generation projects** that would be permitted under this bill.

I also object to the section of this bill that **only requires a cost-benefit analysis of environment benefits, health benefits, and environmental impacts of the project to the citizens of the State — NOT HEALTH HARMS** [Section 7-1210 (4) (VI)].

Everything I learned as a Commissioner about public health harms and harms to the environment — especially water sources, moved me to support the 2017 fracking ban in Maryland. Since 2017 I have continued to follow research on public health harms, especially harms to our PA neighbors, as there is ongoing research there.

Sources of fracked gas for MD electricity generation would likely come from PA and WV, as well as TX from the Texas Eastern transmission line to Accident, MD. All three states are known to have few regulations preventing harm to their residents.

And because Maryland has been spared these health and environmental harms, it is irresponsible, if not immoral, to promulgate these harms in other states by importing their fracked gas here to combust for electricity.