



# Maryland

## Energy Administration

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** MEA

**SUBJECT:** SB 878 - Oil and Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing – Authorization

**DATE:** February 27, 2025

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### **MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE**

The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote clean, affordable, reliable energy and energy-related greenhouse gas emission reductions to benefit Marylanders in a just and equitable manner. This bill is in direct contrast to that mission.

This bill would significantly position Maryland's ecology and citizens as vulnerable. SB 878 would directly walk back the protection effort of HB 1325 that was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by then-Governor Hogan in 2017.

Senate Bill 878 would authorize hydraulic fracturing, also known simply as "fracking" in the State. Consequently, anyone then may engage in fracking of a well for the exploration or production of oil or natural gas in the State. Fracking is widely known to contribute to exhausted freshwater supplies and air pollution –including large methane emissions that aggravate global warming.

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, directly ([landon.fahrig@maryland.gov](mailto:landon.fahrig@maryland.gov), 410.931.1537).