



BILL NO.: Senate Bill 332 – Task Force to Study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

HEARING DATE: February 13, 2025

SPONSORS: Senators Ready, Folden, and West

POSITION: Strongly Favorable

On behalf of **Stop MPRP, Inc.**, I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill 332, which establishes a **Task Force to Study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities**. This legislation is **critical** to ensuring Maryland has a stable, reliable, and self-sufficient energy future—one that does not depend on the proliferation of destructive high-voltage transmission infrastructure to import power from Pennsylvania and beyond.

Maryland’s Energy Crisis and the Need for SB 332

Maryland currently imports approximately **40% of its electricity**, making it one of the most energy-deficient states in the nation. The **premature retirement of Maryland’s existing in-state power generation facilities** will only worsen this crisis, forcing **greater reliance on high-voltage transmission lines** that devastate our farmlands, forests, and communities.

The **Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)** is a prime example of how Maryland’s **energy planning failures** are leading to unnecessary and destructive infrastructure expansion. If completed, this project would:

- **Destroy 522 acres of farmland**—land that supports Maryland’s rural economy and food security,
- **Clear 394 acres of forest**, causing long-term ecological damage,
- **Cross 101 streams and waterbodies**, threatening Maryland’s natural resources,
- **Encroach on 245 acres of conservation land**, undermining efforts to preserve our environment, and
- **Seize 224 acres of farmland protected under the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)**—a direct attack on landowners’ rights.

This **transmission-first approach to energy planning** is not a solution—it is an avoidable consequence of failing to protect in-state generation.



The Premature Retirement of Power Plants is Driving Unnecessary Transmission Expansion

SB 332 is a necessary and urgent step to **assess the true costs of shutting down Maryland's existing power generation facilities too soon**. The closure of these plants does not eliminate energy demand—it merely shifts the burden to out-of-state generators, forcing Maryland ratepayers to foot the bill for costly new transmission lines. The **retirement of reliable energy resources** not only weakens Maryland's energy security but also:

- **Increases electricity costs for consumers** as more imported power is required,
- **Forces new high-voltage transmission projects** that destroy farmland and communities,
- **Compromises Maryland's environmental goals** by making the state more dependent on fossil fuel imports, and
- **Jeopardizes grid reliability** by reducing the availability of dispatchable, in-state power.

Maryland Must Take Control of Its Energy Future

By supporting SB 332, Maryland is taking a responsible, data-driven approach to energy planning. This **Task Force will provide critical oversight and guidance** to ensure that energy decisions balance environmental priorities, economic stability, and energy security. Specifically, SB 332 will:

1. **Examine the impact of premature plant retirements** on energy affordability, reliability, and environmental goals.
2. **Evaluate the necessity of new transmission projects**, ensuring they are not just profit-driven at the expense of Maryland communities.
3. **Develop a strategy for maintaining and optimizing Maryland's existing generation assets**, reducing dependence on out-of-state imports.
4. **Offer real solutions to Maryland's energy crisis**, ensuring residents and businesses are not burdened with unnecessary costs and infrastructure projects.

Recommendation

Stop MPRP, Inc. strongly urges the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 332**. Maryland must prioritize **energy independence and grid reliability** over reckless transmission expansion that benefits out-of-state interests while harming our farms, forests, and communities. By enacting SB 332, Maryland can **take control of its energy future**, avoiding the destruction of our land while ensuring a **reliable, affordable, and sustainable** electricity supply.

Respectfully submitted,

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