

Timothy R. Troxell, CEcD
Senior Advisor, Government Affairs
301-830-0121
ttroxell@firstenergycorp.com

10802 Bower Avenue
Williamsport, MD 21795

SUPPORT – Senate Bill 0332

**Task Force to Study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Thursday, February 13, 2025**

Potomac Edison, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., serves approximately 285,000 customers in all or parts of seven Maryland counties (Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington). FirstEnergy is dedicated to safety, reliability, and operational excellence. Its ten electric distribution companies form one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems, serving customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland.

Favorable

Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy strongly supports Senate Bill 0332 - *Task Force to Study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities*. This legislation seeks to establish a task force to analyze and address Maryland's evolving energy market.

Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy requests a Favorable report on SB-332. The formation of this task force will help ensure the long-term reliability, affordability, and sustainability of Maryland's energy supply.

The continuous delivery of electricity to homes, businesses, government agencies, and other services is essential – and any disruption could significantly affect public safety, economic stability, and the well-being of our customers. Finding solutions that address the imminent energy reliability gap and balance the need between economic considerations and the State's commitment to cleaner energy goals, is imperative.

We support the establishment of this task force and believe a balanced representation of stakeholders is essential to ensure all perspectives are adequately considered. We offer the following comments related to the task force composition that could help strengthen its effectiveness.

Currently the task force includes only one member from the House and one from the Senate. This limited representation may pose challenges depending on the constituencies represented by the members chosen, as rural and urban Maryland often have distinct energy needs and policy approaches. Additionally, the bill does not specify whether these legislators will be from the same party or of differing affiliations -- and bipartisan participation will be crucial to fostering meaningful and productive discussions.

The task force would benefit from the inclusion of more representatives from traditional generation sources like nuclear and natural gas generation. The premature retirement of such facilities often stems from concerns related to environmental impact and long-term viability; however, these energy sources remain vital to grid reliability. Their inclusion in the discussion could help address misconceptions and ensure that all viable energy resources are considered as part of the state's future energy mix.

The inclusion of PJM, the Independent Market Monitor and Reliability First is excellent. Their growing prominence in public discussions following the recent capacity auctions and their perspective from seeing what

is happening in other states should not be marginalized. Ensuring they have a strong voice on the task force is critical.

A representative from the energy storage industry should also be considered for inclusion on the task force. Energy storage has the potential to address reliability gaps and serve as a critical component to help enhance grid stability. Their insight into the feasibility and future development of storage technologies within Maryland would be valuable, and their inclusion would help maintain Maryland its status as a leader in clean energy.

Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy believes Senate Bill 0332 presents a vital opportunity to evaluate Maryland's energy market challenges and develop strategic solutions. With a more balanced task force composition that includes bipartisan legislative participation, strong representation from market monitors, traditional energy generators, and energy storage experts, the task force can more effectively address the complexities of Maryland's evolving energy landscape.

For the above reasons, Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy respectfully request a Favorable vote on SB-332.