



Maryland

Energy Administration

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

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB 716 - Decarbonization Infrastructure Solutions Act of 2025

DATE: March 6, 2025

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

Senate Bill 716 proposes altering Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to include nuclear energy as a Tier 1 renewable source.

Maryland has committed to achieving 100% clean energy, and the Maryland Energy Administration established a framework for the transition. Maryland faces significant challenges in meeting its clean energy targets due to rising electricity demand, supply chain constraints, and delays in energy infrastructure deployment.

In its 100% Clean Electricity Report, MEA acknowledged that Maryland must add 7.4 to 11.2 GW of clean energy capacity to achieve net-zero emissions while keeping up with additional demand over time.¹ The report highlights the importance of clean energy sources, such as nuclear power, that may be necessary to ensure grid reliability as demand in the state grows over time. As solar and wind continue to be maximized, nuclear has the potential to be introduced as a reliable clean energy source. Small modular reactors (SMRs) are considered a flexible nuclear solution, though their rapid deployment is unlikely without significant state and federal investment or a dedicated procurement mechanism.

However, MEA would note that simply adding new nuclear generation to Tier 1 of the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) may not provide the incentives necessary to overcome the high up-front investment needed to develop new nuclear generation assets in the state. Additionally, immediate increase in Tier 1 requirements would likely result in incrementally higher compliance costs for the RPS. Those costs will ultimately be borne by ratepayers.

MEA urges the committee to consider the provided testimony when issuing their report.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, directly at megan.outten@maryland.gov, 443-842-1780).

¹ MEA Report: Reaching 100% Net Carbon-Free Electricity in Maryland
<https://energy.maryland.gov/Reports/MEA%20100%20Clean%20Electricity%20Report.pdf>