

MARCH 6, 2025



SENATE BILL 908: AFFORDABLE GRID ACT

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

Shore Progress is in strong support of Senate Bill 908, the Affordable Grid Act. This bill is crucial for ensuring a modern, equitable, and resilient electric grid for Maryland's Eastern Shore communities - where our residents have faced persistent energy inequities. Without comprehensive and transparent planning requirements for electric utilities, these disparities will only worsen as energy demand increases and extreme weather events grow more frequent.

SB 908 strengthens grid reliability for rural communities - where aging infrastructure and a lack of investment in local grid resilience leaving residents, businesses, and essential services vulnerable. This bill will ensure that electric companies proactively address weaknesses before failures occur, incorporating modern technologies such as microgrids, energy storage, and distributed energy resources to make our rural communities less dependent on centralized power generation.

Eastern Shore residents already pay a disproportionate share of their income on energy costs. The Affordable Grid Act ensures that grid investments are cost-effective and transparent, requiring utilities to demonstrate how their plans will minimize cost to ratepayers while improving grid reliability. Our residents deserve a clean energy future, but one that ensures affordability and reliability for all Marylanders. This legislation establishes a proactive, transparent, and community-focused approach to electric distribution planning.

Shore Progress urges a favorable report.

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