Support with Amendments – Senate Bill 643 – Public Utilities – Energy Generation and Transmission

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) support with amendments **Senate Bill 643 - Public Utilities – Energy Generation and Transmission.** Senate Bill 643 authorizes the construction, permitting, and operation of energy generating systems that produce energy from natural gas within the State. The legislation also permits investor-owned electric companies and electricity suppliers to construct, acquire, lease, and operate their own generating and certain transmission facilities. Additionally, the bill expresses the General Assembly's support for the development of additional nuclear energy in the State.

Resource adequacy is a pressing issue nationwide and is of particular concern in Maryland. Given the limited local generation and pending retirements of dispatchable generation in the state, Maryland is dependent on generation imports to achieve its electric supply. Achieving resource adequacy requires a holistic view of solutions, including contributions from Maryland, PJM Interconnection, and Maryland utilities. More resources are needed as soon as possible—power plants (renewable and natural gas), energy storage, and demand-side capabilities.

Ensuring a reliable electricity supply is a significant concern in Maryland. The state currently relies heavily on 40% imported power. The recent PJM Interconnection capacity auction highlighted these challenges, clearing at historically high prices and indicating a shortfall in resources to meet grid demands. Additionally, the planned retirement of the Brandon Shores will further strain Maryland's energy capacity. With its closure, the state will lose a significant portion of its dispatchable generation, exacerbating its power deficit and increasing reliance on imported electricity. This highlights the urgent need to bolster local generation resources to maintain grid reliability.

If the Committee elects to vote this bill out of Committee, Pepco and Delmarva Power recommend adding amendments that authorize utilities to recover in rates the prudently incurred costs for acquiring, constructing, owning, and operating regulated generation and language that establishes a process to protect utility customers from the rate impacts of project terms that harm the electric company's credit metrics.

Pepco and Delmarva Power support with amendments Senate Bill 643 and are committed to collaborating with stakeholders to develop strategies that ensure a dependable electricity supply, maintain affordability, and align with the state's climate objectives.