



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland



SB0716 – Nuclear Energy - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Procurement (Decarbonization Infrastructure Solutions Act of 2025)

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025

Bill Sponsor: Senator Brooks

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Submitting: Liz Feighner for **Howard County Climate Action, Indivisible Howard County**

Position: UNFavorable

HoCo Climate Action is a 350.org local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). **Indivisible Howard County** represents 800+ members and is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

We strongly urge you to vote unfavorably on the **Decarbonization Infrastructure Solutions Act of 2025**, the bill would not only add nuclear energy to Tier 1; it would add a carve-out within Tier 1 specifically requiring annually increasing percentages of nuclear power (starting at 4% in 2026, and growing 4%/year to 2030). It would be impossible to bring online any new nuclear plants for years but yet Maryland ratepayers would be on the hook for utilities paying the Alternative Compliance Fees starting in 2026 for a new nuclear carve out with absolutely no hope of any path forward.

On page 9, the bill specifies that existing nuclear generation sources cannot qualify for the RPS, so this would simply derail the whole RPS by including targets that are simply impossible to meet, thereby forcing ratepayers to be charged for Alternative Compliance Payments for RECs that the utilities and retail suppliers won't be able to procure.

The country's first expected commercial small modular reactor was scrapped by NuScale Power in Nov. 2023 delivering a major setback to the advanced nuclear industry. This project began in 2017 with designs submitted to the NRC; NRC's technical review completed in 2020 and approved in 2021. DOE said it had [provided \\$232 million for the project since 2020](#) and approved up to [\\$1.4 billion in a cost-share deal](#). After all that, it was cancelled in late 2023. So it took billions and over 6 years to only end up with wasting taxpayer dollars on a failed project. How Maryland plans to bring new nuclear power online in 2026 is absurd.

The bill would stop growth of actual renewable energy within Tier 1 after 2030, and continue expanding nuclear power to 50% of Maryland's electricity supply in 2040. That is a clearly unrealistic target, but it would essentially shut down the wind and solar industries, and require nearly all of Maryland's electricity growth to come from building new reactors every year. The Federal Government has already wasted taxpayers dollars on this doomed to fail technology, so requiring Marylanders provide even more dollars is detrimental to Marylanders.

For all of these reasons, we **strongly urge an UNFAVORABLE report for SB0716** in Committee.

[HoCo Climate Action](#)

[Indivisible Howard County](#)