



Greater Severna Park and Arnold
Chamber of Commerce

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March 3, 2025

Economic Matters Committee
Environmental and Transportation Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the more than 600 members of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in strong support of HB1451, the **Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2025**, introduced by Delegate Brian Chisholm.

Because of the overly ambitious climate change regulations which have reduced the production of electricity within our own state, citizens and business owners are receiving staggering bills for electric usage. In all cases the bills have doubled, and some have even tripled as we are purchasing electricity from out of state, which is very expensive and unnecessary, as we have all we need right here in Maryland to produce 100% of our required electricity.

My electric bill at the Chamber, a non-profit entity, doubled to close to \$500 per month. My home bill has been \$1100, triple of what I am used to paying. I practice all of the cost saving activities like turning the thermostat down after hours, etc. There is nothing more that I can do to reduce my costs, which are stunningly high because the state is purchasing and not producing electricity.

These bills are unaffordable for the average Marylander, and you will see people simply not paying them and subsequently having their electricity cut off. In addition, the Chamber supports non-profits who help those in need by paying the electric bills. With bills that have doubled, the non-profits will only be able to help a small number of people. And because my expenses have gone up, I will not be able to help as many of our non-profits.



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Small businesses are already incurring high taxes and fees. With the higher electric bills, they won't have a choice but to pass the costs on to consumers. This will indeed impact their businesses (remember that small businesses are the job creators and innovators). Maryland is already one of the most business-unfriendly states, and now the situation is worse for our small businesses.

Technology is simply not there for Maryland to rely on solar and wind. It will be developed over time, so why not implement legislation then. Why put the citizens of Maryland through so much pain and uncertainty with these high bills that are unaffordable now for so many people.

Mr. Chisholm's Bill offers a stop gap, a temporary reprieve for the State that does not repeal any of the climate requirements from the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, instead buying us time for technology to adequately catch up to these requirements. In short, this bill keeps the lights on, prevents our State from incurring further deficits, and "eases the pain".

If you read any social media platforms, you will see an unprecedented number of people talking about leaving the state, not paying their bills, not voting again for current officials, and just being very upset. Why create an unnecessary crisis for the citizens of Maryland?

I urge you to support Delegate Chisholm's bill HB1451 and give much need relief to Marylanders.

Sincerely,

Liz

Liz League
CEO
Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce