

Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chair and members of the E&T Committee,

My name is Jorge Rivera Toro, I am 63 Yrs old, a Retired Engineer of the DoD. I have been an Anne Arundel County Resident for 40 Yrs, who lives down the street from the Brandon Shores Power Plant, here in support of HB1451.

The aggressive climate policies, without fully considering their time and financial impact, have forced the retirement of more than a dozen power plants. Now, ratepayers are left footing the bill to keep Brandon Shores and Wagner running until 2029, as well as paying for transmission upgrades to import energy from Pennsylvania. This poorly planned approach has left us with significant costs, both in taxes and on our energy infrastructure.

We are struggling to pay bills due to a poorly planned transition, leaving Maryland reliant on Pennsylvania, with the message: "You need to generate your own energy." It's like jumping off a diving board without knowing how deep the water is.

As a retiree living off my Pension and savings, I'm being penalized with rising utility costs, taxes and fees to fund this transition. These expenses which will only continue to rise as I understand that; "WHEN SUPPLY DECREASES AND DEMAND INCREASES, PRICES RISE". In addition to that, taxpayers should not be burdened with paying subsidies for private businesses or with tax increases for government buildings to comply with state-set goals.

HB1451 provides a much needed reprieve, allowing the state to meet its energy Goals and Demands by giving technology time to catch up and, allowing the State of Maryland to help fund this transition through leveraging cuts and implementing efficiencies.

I also support the amendment to repeal the EmPower program which would immediately reduce my utility bills.

Thank you, please support HB1451 with its amendment.

Jorge Rivera Toro

1040 ARBORWOOD PL

Chestnut Hill Cove, MD 21226