



February 4, 2025

TO: House Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Colonial Pipeline  
RE: HB 444  
POSITION: Informational only

To Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, Committee members and Delegate Hill,

The purpose of this letter is to provide information and recommendations regarding HB 444 related to penalties for interference with critical infrastructure.

Colonial Pipeline Company operates an interstate pipeline system that delivers refined products such as gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel fuel into 14 States, including Maryland. Colonial maintains over 300 miles of pipeline in Maryland; operates a major storage and distribution facility in Carroll County; and directly serves BWI airport.

Colonial generally supports initiatives like HB 444 that increase penalties for interfering with critical infrastructure, but we believe HB 444 could be improved. HB 444 contains a definition of “critical infrastructure” that differs from language adopted just last year through SB No. 474. While the law passed last year was focused on certain generating units or facilities, the definition of critical infrastructure was significantly broader than that contained in HB 444. It accomplished this by encompassing in its critical infrastructure definition “...assets, systems and networks, whether physical or virtual, *considered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security* to be so vital to the United States...” [Emphasis added.] Colonial believes that bringing the definition in HB 444 into alignment with what was enacted last year would reduce the possibility of interpretative confusion or conflicts in the future.

Colonial appreciates your introducing HB 444 and raising awareness of this issue. We look forward to working with you and the Committee on this topic in the future.

Sincerely,

***/Philip A. Squair/***

Philip A. Squair  
Senior Government Affairs Advisor  
[psquair@colpipe.com](mailto:psquair@colpipe.com)  
470-330-5099 (m)