



HB1532: Continuing the Next Generation Energy Act

Position: Favorable with Amendments

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
Cc: Members of the Committee

Chair Feldman and members of the Committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund urges a favorable report on HB1532, which advances a suite of energy reforms. We do encourage the committee to consider some strengthening amendments.

As the members of this committee are painfully aware, energy rates have risen dramatically in recent years due to a variety of factors. Thousands of Marylanders each year face shutoff notices due to nonpayment, while many others are forced to juggle multi-hundred-dollar utility bills alongside the ever-increasing costs of rent, groceries, and other necessities. In fact, when Economic Action Maryland Fund surveyed our members and other stakeholders this winter, 63% stated utility bills were their primary concern.

We understand that lowering energy prices will take a multi-pronged approach over a number of years. Many of the proposals in HB1532 would help lower rates long-term, and we appreciate the comprehensive effort put into this legislation. In particular, we are pleased to see the expansion of energy assistance programs; the cap on executive pay that can be charged to ratepayers; and the prohibition on multi-year rates and forecasting.

There are a few areas that could be strengthened. In particular, we encourage the committee to consider:

- Restoring EmPOWER energy efficiency goals or speeding back up the timeline for goals to scale back up to current levels. .
- Eliminate the changes to nuclear power procurement and financing, which will weaken consumer protection safeguards on cost overruns for nuclear power.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB1532 with strengthening amendments.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Deputy Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

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