



## Senate Bill 780

Date: March 3, 2026

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Position: Information**

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Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Seante Bill 780 (SB 780) would require a substantial new set of analytical requirements for applications seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity for certain electric generating stations located near designated “at-risk” census tracts, and would authorize the Maryland Public Service Commission to deny such applications based on potential environmental or public health stressors identified through that analysis.

While understanding the intent to ensure community impacts are considered, we are concerned that the additional regulatory and procedural burdens established under this bill will make it harder to build new sources of power generation in Maryland. By adding complex reporting requirements and subjective evaluative criteria tied to environmental justice metrics, the bill creates uncertainty and potential delay in the siting and approval of new generation facilities. Developers could face increased costs and longer timelines to secure necessary approvals, which may discourage investment in essential infrastructure.

Maryland currently relies on neighboring states for a significant portion of our electricity supply. Compounding that challenge, regional retirements of existing in-state power plants in recent years have underscored the need for a diversified and resilient generation portfolio. Additional barriers to new generation construction could hamper efforts to maintain grid reliability, attract new energy investments, and support economic growth. Requiring further procedural hurdles, even where environmental and public health considerations are already addressed through existing regulatory frameworks, risks exacerbating these issues at a time when expanding in-state capacity should be a priority.

Any policy that inadvertently deters new generation development may undermine the state's energy security and impede progress toward a stable, affordable and self-sufficient energy future.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on **SB 780**.