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HB66(SB373).Pavlak.FAV

RGGI withdrawal

Oral & written testimony

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair.

My name is Alex Pavlak I'm a PhD engineer from Severna Park and the chairman of the Future of Energy Initiative. My advocacy is numbers.

A year ago January, I published the first of three OpEds (below) urging Maryland withdrawal from RGGI.

Maryland's response to me has been happy talk. I've been told that RGGI is working just fine and in a sense it is. It's working exactly as planned and it's raising tons of money. I've also been told that Maryland fossil fuel plants are retiring for economic reasons which is also true. RGGI imposes a \$275 million/yr tax on a \$600 million industry. Maryland fossil fuel plants cannot afford to pay the tax and compete with PJM plants that do not pay the tax.

- This is not complicated. RGGI is bad policy because taxing boundaries do not align with market boundaries for PJM-RGGI states.
- RGGI caused the Brandon Shores early retirement resulting in last year's Howard County blackout,
- RGGI caused Maryland natural gas plants to file for early deactivation in 2024. This was reversed by capacity market prices big enough to pay the RGGI tax and stay in business. BGE ratepayers get the bill.
- RGGI is increasing not decreasing regional GHG emissions [as reported by TCR](#). RGGI in PJM states is not a climate program it is a poorly designed retrogressive tax.

Maryland's withdrawal from RGGI can be staged over several years, coordinated with PJM capacity auctions. If FERC terminates RGGI the impact would be disruptive.

I urge a favorable report.

Please find below links to the three Baltimore Sun OpEds urging RGGI termination

- When green policy backfires, [November 10, 2025](#). (RGGI is simply bad policy for PJM RGGI states)
- The real reason your electric bill is increasing, [June 8, 2025](#), (July '26 begins the big increases)
- Maryland is on a path to rolling blackouts, [January 6, 2025](#), (foreshadowed the Howard County blackout)

