



SB0429 - SUPPORT
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SB0429 – Maryland Energy Administration – Study on Land-based Wind Energy

Meeting of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on SB0429, Study on Land-based Wind Energy.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know that Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, cleaner future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

We need more renewable energy not only to replace fossil fuel generation, but also to meet growing electricity demand. Solar energy has great potential in Maryland, but solar alone cannot meet our clean energy needs. Wind should also play a major role.

Southern Maryland has significant untapped onshore resources. More than a decade ago, Maryland passed legislation that has effectively prevented onshore wind development in South Maryland due to concerns about interference with the operations of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Since that time, technology has greatly improved. Wind turbines can now be built in places where they were not economically feasible, and novel approaches have been developed to ensure they don't interfere with radar systems.

This bill would direct the Maryland Energy Administration to study how much onshore wind can be built in Maryland and how to avoid potential radar interference. The study has been estimated to cost \$200,000. It would be funded through the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF), so it would have minimal impact on the state budget. This small investment has the potential to greatly increase the amount of renewable energy generated in Maryland.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on SB0429.