



TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY BAKER
MARYLAND DIRECTOR

JAMIE DEMARCO
LOBBYIST

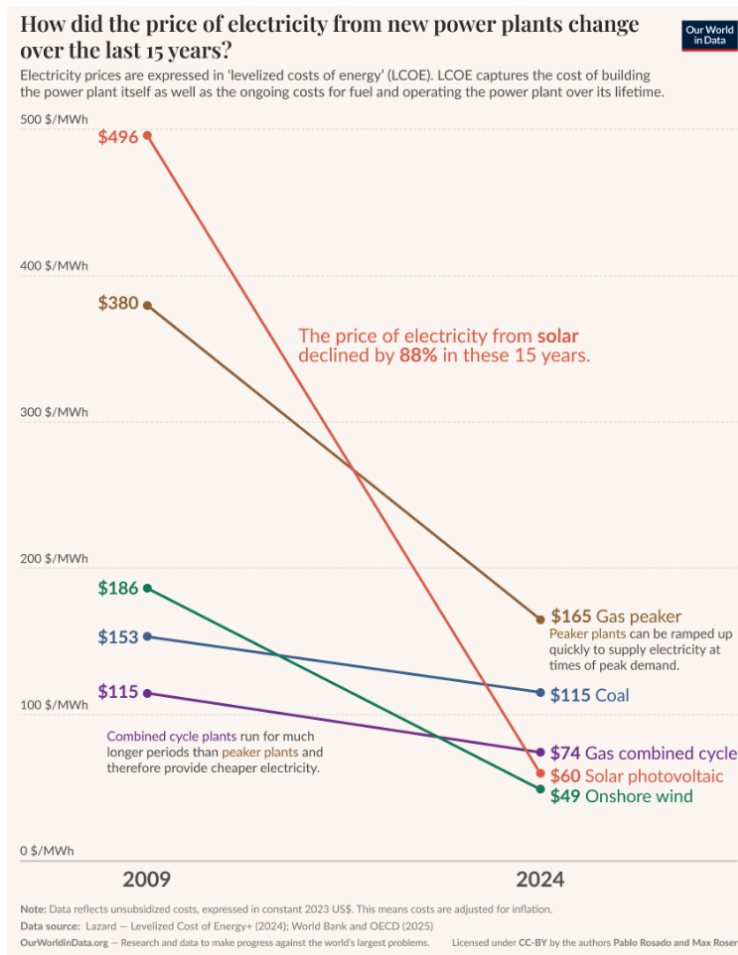
MIKE TIDWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SB429- OSHORE WIND STUDY BILL

FAVORABLE

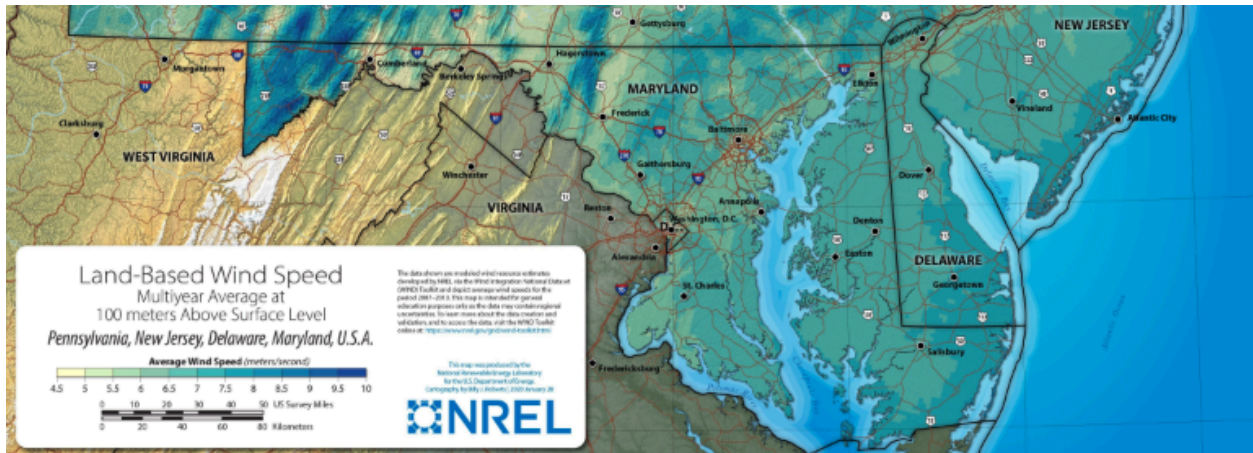
EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19TH, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the EEE Committee, Onshore wind is among the most affordable sources of electricity available to deploy today. As, this graph from Our World in Data shows, onshore wind is affordable, and the cost continues to decline:



Maryland also has abundant onshore wind energy resources, though right now no one knows how much in-state electricity could potentially be generated by land based wind in Maryland. With the sponsor amendments, SB429 simply requires MEA to study the total potential of landbased wind in Maryland. This study will guide future legislation to help future land based wind projects to the state of Maryland.

This map of wind speeds at 100 meters above surface level shows that the Maryland has tremendous landbased wind potential, particularly, in Western Maryland and on the eastern shore east of Salisbury:

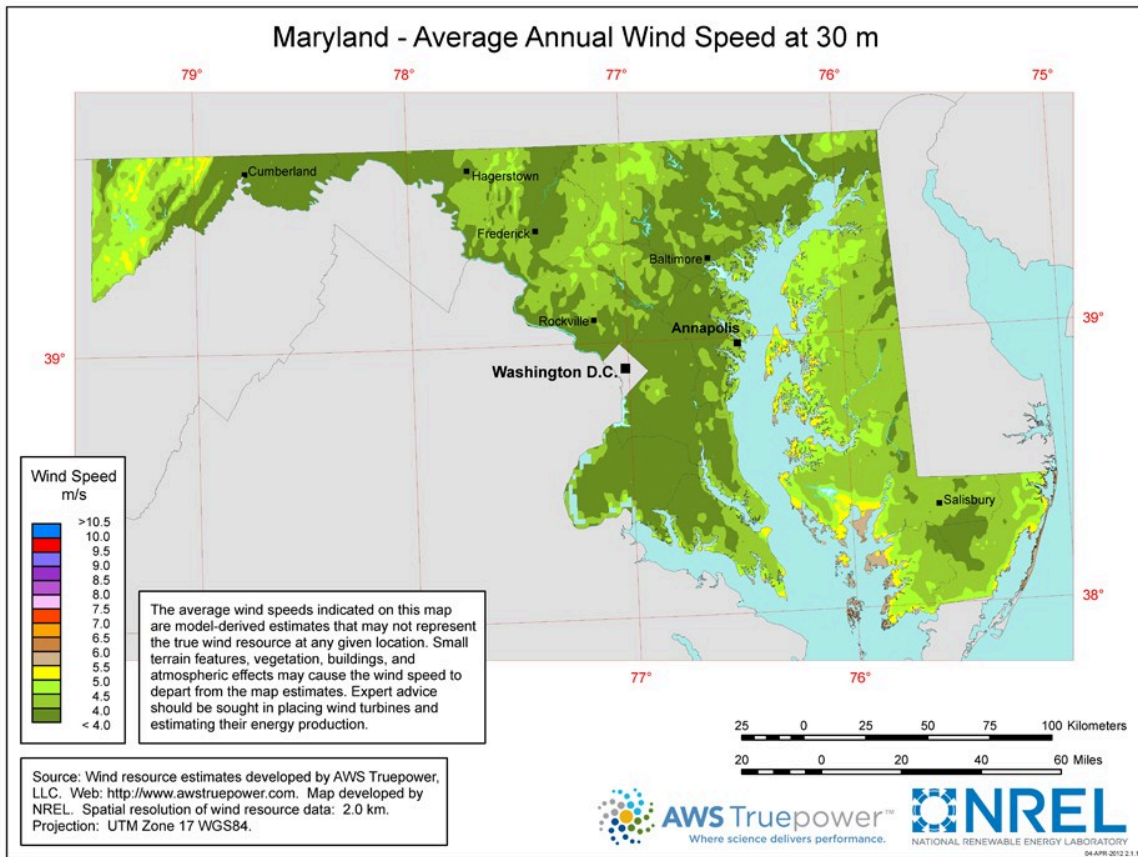


Maryland already has multiple landbased wind projects in the Western part of the state, totalling 245 megawatts of capacity, but this is only a fraction of the total onshore wind generation potential in Maryland.

While landbased wind projects are being built in Western Maryland, no one in the onshore wind industry is looking at the Eastern Shore as a location to potentially build new build projects. 13 years ago when a wind developer was looking at building on the western side of the Eastern Shore, the Maryland legislature passed legislation making it difficult to build land based wind within 46 miles of the Pax River Naval Air Base. That legislation was vetoed by Governor O'Malley but the damage was done and the message was clear: Maryland is closed to business and we don't want more in-state generation.

13 years later, a lot has changed. The PJM grid is in much greater need of new electricity generation. At a time when Maryland is looking for ways to increase our instate generation, encouraging land based wind companies to look at building on the Eastern Shore will cost next to nothing but could unleash a wave of new electricity generation and family supporting jobs in the state.

13 years ago wind turbines could only harvest wind resources at 30 meters above ground level. This map shows where wind resources can be found at 30 meters:



As you can see, at 30 meters above ground level the windiest parts of the Eastern Shore are in Somerset County. The turbines that were going to be built in Somerset county 13 years ago would have been closer than 46 miles to the Pax River Naval Air Base. At the time, the Naval Air base raised concerns that those turbines might disrupt their sensitive ADAMS radar system.

Now that wind turbines can harvest wind resources at 100 meters above ground level, the best wind resources are on the far eastern portion of the Eastern Shore. These locations are as far as 65 Nautical Miles from the Pax River Naval Air Base. For context, the offshore wind turbines being built off the coast of Virginia by Dominion Energy are 70 nautical miles from the Pax River Naval Air Base, and the Air Base's concerns have been addressed with an agreement where Dominion will turn their turbines off occasionally at the request of the Air Base. A similar agreement could easily be reached between turbines East of Salisbury and the Pax River Naval Air Base.

We hope that one day Maryland is generating gigawatts of power on the Eastern Shore with land based wind turbines. SB429 is the start of a long process to bring this industry to the Eastern Shore of Maryland.