



March 25, 2026

Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee

HB 1532

Continuing the Next Generation Energy Act

Sponsor: The Speaker

Katie Mettle

Policy Principal, Maryland & New Jersey, Advanced Energy United

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Advanced Energy United is a national industry association that represents companies operating in the clean and advanced energy spaces. “Advanced energy” broadly refers to technology that consists of, or is compatible with, clean energy generation, and makes our grid more affordable, efficient, reliable, resilient and/or secure. Our mission is to accelerate the transition to 100% clean energy economy.

I previously offered testimony on HB1532 in the House that was favorable with amendments. Given the amendments that were added to the bill in the House, I would like to weigh in on a few additional changes United would like to see:

First, we are asking not to make any further reductions in the EmPOWER goals. The energy savings from EmPOWER directly lower wholesale electricity prices and avoid capital expenditures for all ratepayers, including customers who have not taken advantage of EmPOWER.

Second, we are concerned that as written, customers currently enrolled in demand response (such as smart thermostat) programs would be disenrolled from those programs. Even if the utility offers a successor demand response program, disenrollment followed by re-enrollment would cause customers to drop off. This could threaten Maryland's demand response capacity and thus our grid reliability. We are politely requesting the following amendment:

Article – Public Utilities

7-222

(H) EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY, GAS COMPANY, MIDSIZE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC OR GAS UTILITY, AND SMALL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE THAT OFFERS DEMAND RESPONSE TO ITS CUSTOMERS SHALL ENSURE THAT CUSTOMERS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN A DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2026 EXPERIENCE CONTINUITY IN DEMAND RESPONSE SERVICES AND COMPENSATION, REGARDLESS OF THE SECTION OF THIS ARTICLE UNDER WHICH THE DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED.

Third, we are requesting an amendment to require the utilities to report disaggregated data to the PSC on how much demand response they sell to energy markets, which energy markets, the dates of the sales, and the sale prices. This would be useful data for the state to have going forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Advanced Energy United respectfully requests a favorable report with the amendments we have suggested.

Best Regards,

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