

# **SB429\_BrooksB.pdf**

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV

**BENJAMIN BROOKS**  
*Legislative District 10*  
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee  
Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal  
Service Program Workgroup



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 429**  
**Maryland Energy Administration – Study on Land – Based Wind Energy**  
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
February 19, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB 429, Maryland Energy Administration – Study on Land-Based Wind Energy. SB 429 requires the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to evaluate the potential for land-based wind energy generation in Maryland, including identifying areas with suitable wind resources. The study also directs MEA to examine mitigation strategies used elsewhere to address potential conflicts between wind turbines and critical technologies, such as radar and military operations. MEA is required to report its findings and recommendations, providing a data-driven planning tool and structured foundation for any future consideration of land-based wind projects.

By identifying feasible areas for wind development and evaluating proven mitigation strategies, the study enables the State to make informed, deliberate decisions. This early, structured analysis avoids late-stage conflicts, protects communities, and preserves ratepayer resources.

Onshore wind is among the most affordable sources of electricity available today. According to Our World in Data, the levelized cost of energy for constructing a new gas plant is approximately \$74 per megawatt-hour, while the cost for a new land-based wind turbine is about \$49 per megawatt-hour. In other words, it is roughly 50 percent more expensive to build a new gas plant than a new land-based wind project.

Land-based wind is already being developed in Western Maryland, where several projects total approximately 245 megawatts of capacity. In contrast, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, no developers are even considering new land-based wind projects. This is not due to a lack of wind resources, but rather a policy signal the state sent 13 years ago indicating that land-based wind development was not welcome in that region.

At that time, proposed projects were located near Naval Air Station Patuxent River (PAX), and the military raised concerns that wind turbines could interfere with the ADAMS radar system

used at the base. The Navy requested a 46-mile exclusion radius around the installation, which effectively eliminated all areas with wind speeds high enough to be commercially viable. Wind turbine technology has advanced significantly, and modern turbines are far more efficient than earlier models. As a result, economically viable wind projects on the Atlantic side of the Eastern Shore are now possible, well outside the previously requested 46-mile radius and far from PAX.

Wind energy is also far more common today, and workable mitigation strategies now exist. For example, PAX already has an agreement with Dominion Energy under which the base may request temporary turbine shutdowns for a limited number of hours each year to avoid radar interference. This demonstrates that coexistence is possible, and similar agreements could be explored for land-based wind projects east of Salisbury.

The state's energy needs have also changed dramatically. Thirteen years ago, energy demand was flat. Today, capacity prices in the PJM Interconnection market are extremely high, and Marylanders are feeling the impact in their monthly energy bills. If Maryland has access to a clean, affordable, and readily deployable energy resource, we should be evaluating and pursuing it.

SB 429 simply requires the Maryland Energy Administration to analyze how much electricity could be generated from land-based wind in Maryland. Sound policy decisions require good data, and at present, the state lacks a clear understanding of this resource's potential. The legislation originally included an analysis of how land-based wind and ADAMS radar systems have coexisted elsewhere; however, it has since been determined that PAX hosts the only ADAMS radar system in the country, and an amendment is being offered to remove that provision.

While it may technically be possible for a wind developer to build on the Eastern Shore today, no companies are exploring the option because of the message sent by the General Assembly more than a decade ago. SB 429 demonstrates that Maryland is taking a fresh, data-driven approach to land-based wind and encourages developers to re-evaluate the Eastern Shore for potential projects. Though a study bill, it sends a meaningful message and supports efforts to expand supply and lower electricity costs for Maryland households and businesses.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 429.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin F. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks

# **SB429Amendment.pdf**

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV



**SB0429/863524/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

17 FEB 26  
16:40:26

BY: Senator Brooks  
(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 429

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 1, in line 16, after “subsection;” insert “and”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike beginning with “information” in line 17 on page 1 down through “(5)” in line 1 on page 2.

# **SB429Reprint.pdf**

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV

# SENATE BILL 429

M5

6lr1996  
CF HB 629

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By: **Senator Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Energy Administration – Study on Land-Based Wind Energy**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to conduct a study on  
4 the potential for land-based wind energy generation in the State and the siting of  
5 land-based wind energy generating systems in the State; authorizing the  
6 Administration to use available funds in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment  
7 Fund to conduct the study; and generally relating to a study on land-based wind  
8 energy.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
10 That:

11 (a) The Maryland Energy Administration shall conduct a study on land-based  
12 wind energy generating systems in the State.

13 (b) The study shall include:

14 (1) the total potential for land-based wind energy generation in the State;

15 (2) a description of the locations used to determine the total potential for  
16 land-based wind energy generation under item (1) of this subsection; and

17 (3) ~~information on locations in the United States where mitigation efforts~~  
18 ~~have been successfully employed to allow wind energy generating systems and military~~  
19 ~~radar technologies, including the Advanced Dynamic Aircraft Measurement System~~  
20 ~~(ADAMS), to operate successfully in the same area;~~

21 (4) ~~a description of the successful mitigation efforts identified under item~~  
22 ~~(3) of this subsection, the effects of the mitigation efforts, and the potential for their use in~~  
23 ~~the State; and~~

2     **REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 429 as amended by SB0429/863524/1   02/17/26 at 4:39 PM**

1           ~~(5)~~     any other relevant matter, as determined by the Administration.

2           (c)     The Administration may use available funds in the Strategic Energy  
3 Investment Fund under § 9–20B–05 of the State Government Article to conduct the study  
4 required under subsection (a) of this section.

5           (d)     On or before December 1, 2026, the Administration shall report its findings  
6 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State  
7 Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment  
8 and the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
10 1, 2026.

# **SB0429\_Maryland\_Energy\_Administration\_Study\_on\_L**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0429

### Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Brooks

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0429 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

It is no secret that Maryland is in desperate need of energy for our grid. We have allowed the very agencies that were tasked with managing the grid to get cozy with fossil fuel companies and data center providers, and now prices have soared. We have had a lot of talk lately about nuclear, which is not viable in the short term (and unlikely to be viable in the long term). We've tried to ramp up solar in the state.

The one thing we haven't talked about is wind. Maryland could become a leader in wind energy generation, and the manufacture of turbines if we could just manage to look ahead. It could mean new jobs into the future and allow the state to control more of our own energy generation.

This bill, if enacted, would study land-based wind as a partial solution to our energy generation needs. It would not be a long study, with a report due by the end of the year, and would be handled by MEA.

Our members recognize that the state does not want to spend money on studies, but this one would not be very expensive and would give us a path to making wind energy part of our future.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

**MAREC Action Testimony SB429 FAV 021926.pdf**

Uploaded by: Evan Vaughan

Position: FAV



February 19, 2026

**MAREC ACTION TESTIMONY SB429: FAVORABLE**

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

MAREC Action (informally, “Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition”) writes in support of SB429, which would require the Maryland Energy Administration to conduct a study on the potential for land-based wind energy generation in the state. MAREC Action is a coalition of over 50 utility-scale solar, wind, and battery storage developers and manufacturers dedicated to the growth and development of renewable energy across the PJM grid region.

Land-based wind generation is a proven technology delivering gigawatts of low cost, reliable power across the thirteen-state PJM grid, of which Maryland is a part. Advances in wind energy technology, with more powerful individual turbines able to produce more electricity with a smaller overall number of turbines, creates an opportunity for Maryland to harness more of this natural resource. Wind developers have also advanced wildlife monitoring and detection technologies in recent years. The only operating wind projects in the state are on ridgelines in the west, but the study prescribed by SB429 could highlight new areas with the potential to produce wind power.

Energy demands are rising in Maryland and across PJM due to the rise of data centers, onshoring of manufacturing, and electrification, while new generation has not kept pace with retirements of older, inefficient thermal power plants. Wind turbines are an affordable, reliable, and clean solution to bring new power online. Wind energy is a valuable complement to solar generation and battery storage, and has a comparatively high Effective Load Carrying Capacity (ELCC) rating of 41 percent from PJM. This means wind projects are effective at keeping the lights on during critical reliability windows, such as Winter Storm Fern. Building new land-based wind projects in Maryland would generate significant consumer savings in both the energy market and capacity market, due to the lack of fuel costs and high ELCC value.

SB429 sends a valuable signal to industry that Maryland is serious about attracting investment from land-based wind developers. For the wind projects currently operating in Maryland, development timelines were extremely long (up to ten years), which could be mitigated by the findings of the study. Aside from one project that came online last year, new land-based wind hasn’t been developed in Maryland in over a decade—largely due to siting constraints. Given this long pause, evolving technology, and rising electricity demand, the time is ripe to pass SB429. Doing so would encourage a renewed interest in this affordable, clean source of electricity.

Thank you for considering our testimony, we ask that the committee take a favorable position on this legislation.

Evan Vaughan  
Executive Director  
MAREC Action  
PO Box 3335  
Silver Spring, MD 20918

# **ECA testimony on SB0429 Land-based wind.pdf**

Uploaded by: Frances Stewart

Position: FAV



SB0429 - SUPPORT  
Frances Stewart, MD  
Elders Climate Action Maryland  
[frances.stewart6@gmail.com](mailto:frances.stewart6@gmail.com)  
301-718-0446

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.

# **Senate Onshore Wind Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jamie DeMarco

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY OF  
BRITTANY BAKER  
MARYLAND DIRECTOR

JAMIE DEMARCO  
LOBBYIST

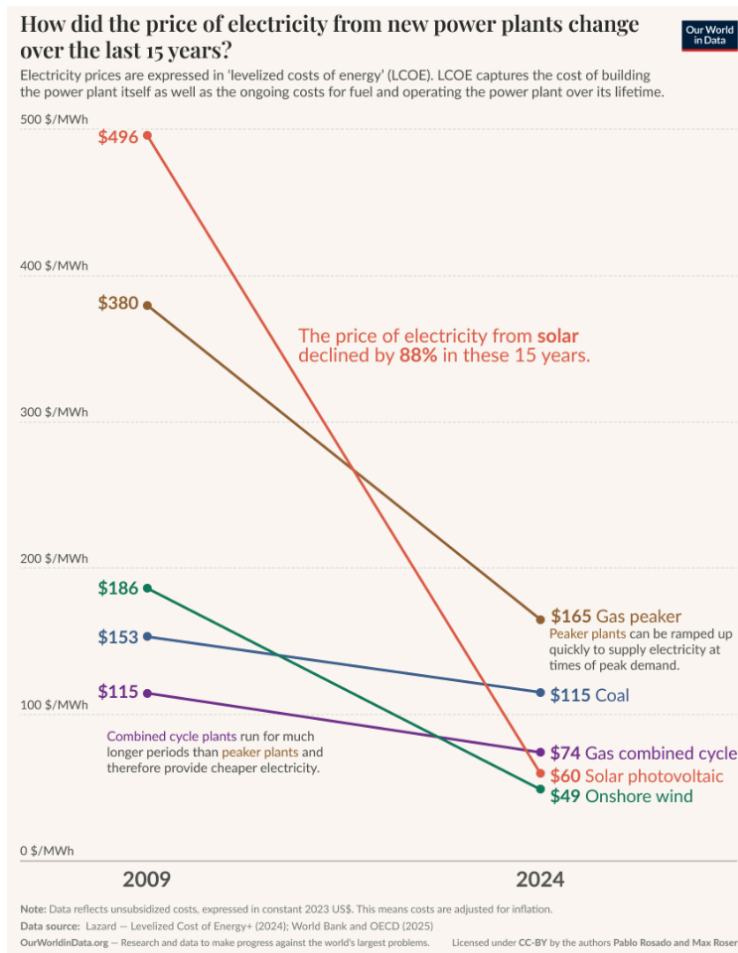
MIKE TIDWELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### SB429- OSHORE WIND STUDY BILL

FAVORABLE

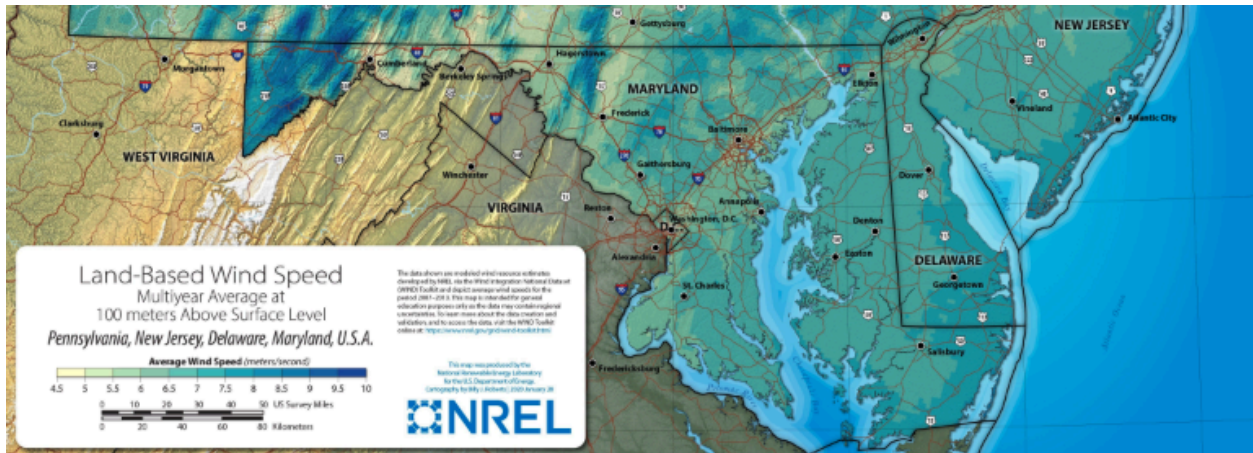
EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 19TH, 2026

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:

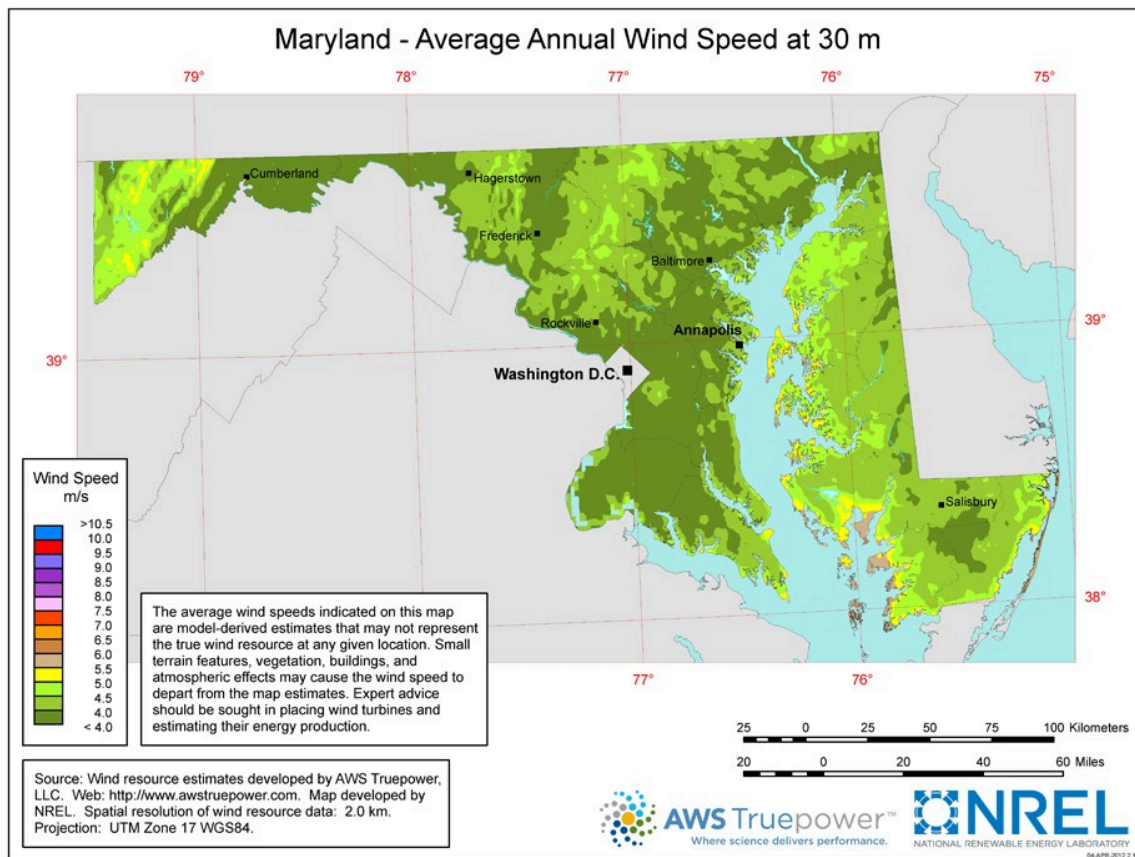


Maryland already has multiple landbased wind projects in the Western part of the state, totalling 245 megawatts of capacity, but this is only a fraction of the total onshore wind generation potential in Maryland.

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.

# **CE Ball 2026 - Testimony SB429 Maryland Energy Adm**

Uploaded by: Monica Perez

Position: FAV



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive  
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov  
FAX 410-313-3051

February 17, 2026

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill 429**: Maryland Energy Administration – Study on Land-based Wind Energy

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

At a time when Marylanders face significant electricity price increases, wider deployment of clean energy systems such as wind energy can provide crucial relief for low- and moderate-income households. **Howard County supports SB429 because it can help to advance Maryland's progress toward greater deployment of land-based wind energy, which is cleaner and cheaper than fossil fuel-based electricity generation.**

Achieving Maryland's ambitious clean energy and climate goals depends on decarbonizing our electricity. Although Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard calls for 50% of electricity sold in the state to come from renewable sources by 2030, only about 13% of Maryland's in-state generation is currently renewable, mostly from solar and hydropower. We have to pick up the pace of clean energy deployment. This has been a priority from the start of my Administration. In early 2019, I signed Howard County on to the "We Are Still In Declaration" aligning our work with the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate. That same year, Howard County became the first county in the nation to accept the U.S. Climate Alliance's Natural & Working Lands Challenge.

In 2020 we executed our landmark 2020 solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which already generates enough clean energy to meet more than half of the electricity needed by all Howard County government buildings. This PPA will save the County well over \$30 million in energy costs over its 25-year term. Our commitment to climate action and sustainability was further recognized in 2022 when the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) gave its highest LEED "Platinum" ranking to Howard County under USGBC's Cities and Communities program. Howard County was the nation's first county to earn this prestigious LEED Platinum designation.

In launching our June 2023 "*Climate Forward: Climate Action and Resiliency Plan*," I committed Howard County to the ambitious goals of reducing greenhouse gases by 60% by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. Clean energy deployment is integral to our Climate Forward plan. We have seen solar generation grow by nearly 40% in Howard County over the past two years. While we now have over 150 megawatts (MW) of solar generation in the county, our aim is to reach solar capacity of 437 MW by 2030 and 1,133 MW by 2045.

Toward that end, we are undertaking a “whole-of-community” approach to further expand clean energy in Howard County. We are negotiating a second solar PPA in partnership with Howard County Community College and the Howard County Public School System. We are also working to develop several County-led community solar projects at a former landfill, a shared septic reserve site, and other County properties.

Even so, we would welcome the opportunity to also advance land-based wind power in Howard County. Wind energy in Maryland has been focused mostly on offshore development, which is now in jeopardy due to the federal government’s efforts to throw up permitting and other roadblocks. Land-based wind energy, although less costly, has been largely overlooked in Maryland as much of its territory has suboptimal conditions, likely creating missed opportunities. The slow pace of renewable energy deployment hampers Maryland’s ability to advance more affordable solutions, much less achieve ambitious climate goals.

Advancing land-based wind energy must be part of an all-hands-on-deck effort on clean energy and climate. SB429 would require the Maryland Energy Administration to conduct a study of Maryland’s land-based wind energy potential, with particular attention to identifying suitable locations and mitigating potential interference with radar technologies. Howard County supports this legislation as it could enable better informed decisions in promoting land-based wind energy development in Maryland. This would also help local jurisdictions and the state meet their respective climate commitments. **We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report for SB429.** Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive

# **Maryland LCV\_FAV\_SB 429 Study on Land-Based Wind.p**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Rehr

Position: FAV



**MARYLAND  
LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION  
VOTERS**

**Maryland LCV  
Board of Directors**

Patrick Miller  
*Chair*

Honorable Nancy Kopp  
*Treasurer*

Bonnie Norman  
*Secretary*

Kimberly Armstrong

Caroline Baker

Joe Gill

Lynn Heller

Honorable Steve Lafferty

Kevin Loeb

Kim Coble

*Executive Director*

February 19, 2026

**SUPPORT: SB 429 - Maryland Energy Administration - Study on  
Land-Based Wind Energy**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB 429 - Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy and we thank Senator Brooks for his leadership on this issue.

A January 2025 report from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) found, "Solar photovoltaic (PV) and land-based wind are the least-cost clean energy alternatives." It goes on to say that "limited resource potentials" for these sources necessitate additional clean resources for more clean in-state generation (e.g. offshore wind, which provides tremendous generating potential).

In order to deploy more of these least-cost clean energy sources, a study is a reasonable next step and will provide an understanding of the aforementioned "limited resource potentials." The bill outlines that the study will include the locations for potential land-based wind energy generation and the compatibility of onshore wind with military radar technologies. Turbine technology has changed and lessons have been learned from other projects since the last time these assessments were made, which makes now a good time for a study.

Projected electricity demand is one factor in Marylanders' rising energy bills. There are currently 245 MW of onshore wind capacity in Maryland across five projects. This study can assess the potential for more energy supply from one of the least-cost clean energy sources, and thus help address energy affordability.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on SB 429.

# **Testimony in support of SB0429 - Study on Land-Bas**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

02/19/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0429- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0429, Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy**

The United States Department of Energy, prior to the current Federal Administration transfer from renewable sources to support of fossil fuels, released its report on the *Land-Based Wind Market*<sup>1</sup>

Wind provides public health and environmental benefits by reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide. Nationally, healthy and environmental benefits (when viewed in monetary terms) together averaged \$162/MWh-wind.

If Maryland is to meet its clean, renewable energy goals, this is a bill that moves us in that direction. Clean energy has proven itself to be a powerful driver of economic development in Maryland, including job creation. Using more renewable energy will give Maryland cleaner air and water, helping to protect our residents from the harm of fossil fuel pollution.

This bill accomplishes its goal of finding the true effects of wind power in our electrical generation capacity by requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to conduct a study on the potential for land-based wind energy generation in the State and the siting of land-based wind energy generating systems in the State; authorizing the Administration to use available funds in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to conduct the study; and requiring by December 1, 2026, the Administration to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly. That data will permit legislation to be drafted in response to the results of that study.

In the face of a Federal Government in which commitment to clean energy and environmental protection is likely to be severely restricted or abandoned it is on Maryland to do what we can in our state to continue to move on our climate and energy goals. We should view this as an investment, not an expense, in reaching the desired future.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0429.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/land-based-wind-market-report-2024-edition>

# **SB 429 IBEW 24 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rico Albacarys

Position: FAV

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

## AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council - AFL-CIO  
Baltimore Port Council  
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO  
Central MD Labor Council - AFL-CIO  
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council - AFL-CIO  
Maryland State - D.C. - AFL-CIO  
National Safety Council



JONATHAN P. MCLAUGHLIN, President  
CARMEN F. VOSO, Recording Secretary  
JEROME T. MILLER, Financial Secretary  
MICHAEL J. MCHALE, Business Manager

OFFICE:  
2701 W. PATAPSCO AVENUE  
SUITE 200

AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

Phone: 410-247-5511

FAX: 410-536-4338

Written Testimony of  
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24  
Before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee On  
SB 429 Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy

## Favorable

February 17, 2026

Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys, and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing to express support for Senate Bill 429.

Maryland's electricity demand is growing while generation continues to decline. At the same time, the State has made strong commitments to clean energy. To keep the lights on and meet those standards, we need to take a serious look at every realistic source of reliable, homegrown power.

Senate Bill 429 does exactly that by directing the Maryland Energy Administration to study the potential for land-based wind in Maryland. This bill does not approve or require any specific project. It simply ensures that decisions about our energy future are based on real data rather than assumptions. Other states have shown that wind generation can coexist with military and aviation systems when modern mitigation tools are used, and Maryland deserves the same fact-based evaluation.

Land based wind also represents good, long term jobs for skilled electrical workers and a way to keep energy dollars in Maryland instead of sending them out of state.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 429.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys  
Assistant Business Agent  
IBEW Local 24

## **SB 429**

Uploaded by: Megan Outten

Position: INFO



# Maryland

## Energy Administration

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** MEA

**SUBJECT:** SB 429 - Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy

**DATE:** February 19, 2026

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### **MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

The Maryland Energy Administration offers the following information regarding Senate Bill 429, which requires MEA to conduct a study on the potential for land-based wind energy generation in Maryland and authorizes the use of the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) to support that work.

The Power Plant Research Program has previously undertaken similar analytical efforts as part of the State's evaluation of land-based wind resources, including technical and siting analysis conducted during Maryland's consideration of the Dan's Mountain Wind project. That work examined wind resource potential, siting constraints, and interactions with aviation systems, and required significant staff time and external technical support.

SB 429 would require MEA to conduct a new, comprehensive study that includes statewide wind potential, siting considerations, and mitigation strategies used in other states to address conflicts between wind generation and military radar systems. MEA acknowledges the value of updated and expanded analysis, particularly as technologies, mitigation strategies, and energy system needs evolve.

The bill authorizes MEA to use available funds from SEIF to conduct the study. MEA notes that the current and future uses of SEIF are part of broader conversations this legislative session, and that the SEIF already supports a wide range of statutory responsibilities, including energy affordability programs, clean energy deployment, and rate relief initiatives. Any additional study requirement funded through SEIF would require careful consideration of existing commitments, projected revenues, and current legislative discussions regarding SEIF allocation priorities.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, at [landon.fahrig@maryland.gov](mailto:landon.fahrig@maryland.gov) or 410.913.1537.