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Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0629- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation 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 HB#/0629, 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 HB#/0629.**

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