



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: HB 1349 - Public Service Commission - Implementation Plan to Convert Formerly Operational Fossil Fuel Generating Stations

DATE: March 6, 2025

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

The Maryland Energy Administration respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill 1349.

HB 1349 would require the Public Service Commission to develop and implement plans to convert former fossil fuel generating stations to natural gas. While MEA recognizes the importance of addressing electricity affordability and maintaining grid reliability for Maryland ratepayers, the State must ensure that any strategy to meet these goals considers the full range of energy resources available and prioritize those that can be deployed quickly and cost-effectively. As Maryland households continue to face increasing and significant volatility in monthly energy bills, Maryland must prioritize a pathway that both increases supply and lowers costs for Marylanders; putting reliability and affordability at the forefront of policy decision-making.

Among all available options, solar, and solar paired with storage, continue to represent some of the fastest deployable forms of energy generation in the state. These resources can be brought online significantly faster to meet the demand we are facing today than new natural gas infrastructure, while also helping to stabilize energy costs and strengthen grid resilience.

While the spirit of HB 1349 is to address the reliability challenges, the bill places a singular emphasis on natural gas generation rather than encouraging a broader evaluation of energy resources that could be deployed more rapidly and cheaply to meet Maryland's energy needs. Focusing exclusively on natural gas conversions overlooks opportunities to utilize readily deployable clean energy resources that can provide near-term relief for ratepayers while advancing the State's long-term energy goals.

Maryland is currently working to expand in-state generation capacity to address rising electricity demand and price pressures. In this environment, it is critical that policy approaches maintain flexibility and allow the State to pursue the most timely, cost-effective, and resilient solutions available.

For these reasons, MEA urges the Committee to consider this information before issuing a report on House Bill 1349.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.780.