



David J. Caporale, President
William R. Atkinson, Commissioner
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Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Administrator
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February 27, 2026

Position: SUPPORT HB1190 – Public Utilities - Off-Grid Electricity Providers – Exemption

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

On behalf of the Allegany County Commissioners, I write to express our support for HB 1190 – Public Utilities – Off-Grid Electricity Providers - Exemption.

For many years, Allegany County has experienced the loss of several major industries, resulting in significant and lasting impacts to our local economy. In today's economic climate, it is increasingly difficult to attract and retain businesses, due in part to high utility rates in Maryland. Governor Moore frequently describes the state as experiencing an energy crisis. HB 1190 would provide our county with an important competitive tool by providing a logical regulatory path for off-grid energy generation.

In Allegany County, the former AES coal-fired power plant, which closed last year and resulted in the loss of more than 75 jobs, could potentially have a clearer path toward reopening if given the opportunity to operate as an off-grid electricity provider. The AES facility is located within the Mexico Farms Industrial Park, where both existing and prospective tenants could benefit from access to alternative energy options. Providing this flexibility could enhance the park's overall competitiveness and economic viability.

HB 1190 would also support redevelopment efforts at the former Luke Paper Mill site, which is currently undergoing transition. That site previously operated with on-site power generation capabilities and now sits vacant as a skeleton of its past industrial vigor. Restoring the option for off-grid energy production would serve as a valuable economic development tool as we work to attract new industry and investment to the property.

For these reasons, we respectfully request favorable consideration of HB 1190.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Bennett", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jason Bennett, CPA
County Administrator
Allegany County Government

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