



**February 24, 2026**

**Environment & Transportation Committee**

**HB 897**

**Lower Bills and Local Power Act of 2026**

**Sponsor: The Speaker, by request of the Administration**

**Katie Mettle**

**Policy Principal, Advanced Energy United**

**FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and esteemed members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

Advanced Energy United is an industry association that represents companies operating in the clean and advanced energy spaces. “Advanced energy” broadly refers to technology that consists of or which is compatible with clean energy generation, and which makes our grid more affordable, efficient, reliable, resilient and/or secure.

The problem of rising energy bills has multiple causes. Solving this problem requires a multipronged plan that attacks this problem from multiple angles. The Governor’s bill does that. It creates accountability and incentives for cost-effective transmission buildout, creates support for the solar generation and energy storage industries in the wake of Federal policy change, and leverages existing rights-of-way for transmission and distribution infrastructure.

These changes will allow us to bring more energy generation online, and into Maryland, faster and cheaper, leveraging technologies that can be deployed faster than anything else

We respectfully request a favorable report.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Katie Mettle, Policy Principal  
Advanced Energy United  
[kmettle@advancedenergyunited.org](mailto:kmettle@advancedenergyunited.org)  
202.380.1950 x3197