



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: HB 629 - Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy
DATE: February 17, 2026

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

The Maryland Energy Administration offers the following information regarding House Bill 629, 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.

HB 629 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 Megan Outten, Policy manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.