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SB801-HB1525.RGGI.Empower.NetMetering.Pavlak.FAV

Oral & written testimony

Good afternoon Mr. chairman Madam vice chair. My name is Alex Pavlak I'm a PhD engineer from Severna Park and the chair of the Future of Energy Initiative.

Last year I published 3 OpEds in the Baltimore Sun explaining why RGGI was bad policy for the state of Maryland. My written testimony has links to those pieces.

RGGI works fine when the program boundaries align with market boundaries as they do in New England. But Maryland is a member of the PJM market. This means that Maryland fossil fuel plants must pay an enormous RGGI tax while their out-of-state competitors do not have to pay the tax.

This is not complicated. RGGI is bad policy because taxing boundaries do not align with market boundaries for PJM-RGGI states.

The result is chaos.

- RGGI caused Brandon Shores to retire early.
- It contributed to last year's Howard County blackout,
- RGGI caused Maryland natural gas plants to file for early deactivation in 2024. The PJM capacity market found a price big enough to pay the RGGI tax and stay in business.
- RGGI is increasing not decreasing regional GHG emissions [as reported by TCR](#).
- RGGI in PJM States is not a climate program, it is a poorly designed retrogressive tax.

In my opinion rolling blackouts have become inevitable and BGE ratepayers (not so much the ratepayers from other Maryland electric utilities but BGE only) are being abused.

It is time for Maryland to withdraw from RGGI. I urge a favorable report.

Please find below links to the three Baltimore Sun OpEds urging RGGI termination

- When green policy backfires, [November 10, 2025](#). (RGGI is simply bad policy for PJM RGGI states)
- The real reason your electric bill is increasing, [June 8, 2025](#), (July '26 begins the big increases)
- Maryland is on a path to rolling blackouts, [January 6, 2025](#), (foreshadowed the Howard County blackout)

