



# Maryland

## Energy Administration

**TO:** Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** MEA  
**SUBJECT:** HB 1459 - Public Safety - Stationary Energy Storage Systems  
**DATE:** March 13, 2026

---

### **MEA Position: LETTER OF OPPOSITION**

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) respectfully submits this letter of opposition for House Bill 1459.

House Bill 1459 would require the owner or operator of a stationary energy storage system to pay for specialized fire response training and equipment for local fire departments responsible for fire suppression in the area where the system is located.

While MEA strongly supports the importance of fire safety, training, and preparedness as battery energy storage systems continue to be deployed across Maryland, the Administration has concerns that the requirements proposed in this legislation could create unnecessary barriers to the development of energy storage projects in the State. Energy storage plays an important role in supporting grid reliability, integrating renewable energy resources, and helping Maryland meet its clean energy and climate goals.

Maryland already requires stationary energy storage systems to comply with nationally recognized safety standards, including the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems, as well as local permitting and inspection requirements. These frameworks are designed to ensure that energy storage systems are safely installed and operated while allowing projects to move forward in a predictable regulatory environment.

Requiring project developers or operators to fund training and equipment for all local fire departments with suppression responsibilities may introduce uncertain and potentially significant costs that vary by jurisdiction. These requirements may disproportionately impact energy storage developers and could discourage investment in energy storage projects in Maryland. As a result, these provisions risk slowing the deployment of energy storage resources that are essential for maintaining grid reliability and advancing Maryland's clean energy transition.

For the reasons listed above, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

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](mailto:megan.outten@maryland.gov) or 443.842.1780.