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**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0647- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Power Plant Research Program - Study on Nuclear Energy**

**TO:** Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0647, Power Plant Research Program - Study on Nuclear Energy**

The International Atomic Energy Agency says there are *Five Reasons the Clean Energy Transition Needs Nuclear Power*<sup>1</sup>

1. Nuclear Delivers Large-scale, Low-carbon Power
2. Reliable Baseload Power For Growing Needs
3. Momentum to Increase Financing for Nuclear Energy is Building
4. Nuclear Energy Can Contribute to Decarbonize Hard-to-Abate Sectors
5. Technology Evolution and Innovation

This bill is among a group of bills this year studying how Maryland is to meet its clean, renewable energy goals. Clean energy has proven itself to be a powerful driver of economic development in Maryland, including job creation. Using more renewable energy will give Maryland cleaner air and water, helping to protect our residents from the harm of fossil fuel pollution.

This bill will require the Power Plant Research Program to study and make recommendations on nuclear energy and its role as a renewable energy resource that can effectively combat climate change in the State; and requiring, by September 30, 2027, the Program to report its official findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Since we now have a Federal Government lacking any commitment to clean energy and environmental protection, Maryland must do what we can in our state to continue to move on our climate and energy goals. This program will furnish the data needed to make intelligent decisions and progress in inclusion of nuclear energy in the energy portfolio of Maryland.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0647.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/five-reasons-the-clean-energy-transition-needs-nuclear-power>