

February 10, 2026

HB66(SB373).Pavlak.FAV
RGGI withdrawal

Oral testimony

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a favorable opinion on HB66.

My name is Alex Pavlak I'm a PhD engineer from Severna Park and the chairman of the Future of Energy Initiative. Our mission is to facilitate the clean energy transition. One of my day jobs was to lead engineering teams that created new systems for the Pentagon. My advocacy is numbers and for an honest net-zero.

A year ago January, I published the first of three OpEds urging Maryland withdrawal from RGGI.

Maryland's response to me has been happy talk. I've been told that RGGI is working just fine and in a sense it is. It's working exactly as planned and it's raising tons of money. I've also been told that fossil fuel plants are retiring for economic reasons which is also true. RGGI is a \$275 million tax on a \$600 million industry. Maryland fossil fuel plants cannot afford to pay the tax and compete with plants that do not pay the tax. This is not complicated.

To be clear:

- RGGI caused the Brandon Shores early retirement resulting in last year's Howard County blackout,
- RGGI caused many Maryland natural gas plants to file for early deactivation in 2024. This was reversed by the record high PJM capacity prices that will hit ratepayers this July,
- RGGI is increasing regional GHG emissions [as reported by TCR](#)

Maryland's withdrawal from RGGI can be staged, coordinated with PJM capacity auctions while alternative funding sources are developed.

If FERC terminates RGGI in PJM states it will be brutal.

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 for the big increases)
- Maryland is on a path to rolling blackouts, [January 6, 2025](#), (foreshadowed the Howard County blackout)

