



[HoCoClimateAction.org](http://HoCoClimateAction.org)  
Howard County, Maryland

**Testimony: HB1287– Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - BURDEN Analysis (CHERISH Our Communities Act)**  
**Hearing Date: March 13, 2026**  
**Bill Sponsor: Delegate A. Johnson**  
**Committee: Environment and Transportation**  
**Submitting: Shari Glenn for Howard County Climate Action**  
**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Committee Members,

[HoCo Climate Action](http://HoCoClimateAction.org) is a [350.org](http://350.org) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and clean energy future. Specifically, we have worked extensively on clean energy and on building electrification to help Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals, including net-zero emissions.

We urge you to vote favorably on HB1287. HB1287 would require an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for certain generating stations located within a certain at-risk area to include with the application a baseline understanding of risk, disparities, and environmental needs (BURDEN) report describing and including information on environmental and public health burdens. The bill would address the need for the PSC to consider cumulative exposures for neighborhoods already overburdened from pollution when issuing a CPCN.

HB1287 will require the PSC to factor in health and environmental harms when issuing a CPCN in already overburdened communities. The weakening of EPA protections under the current administration increases the need for CHERISH to protect these very communities and especially the young children who grow up near power plants. For these reasons we urge a favorable vote in committee on HB1287.

For these reasons, we **support** HB1287 and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report.

Howard County Climate Action  
Submitted by Shari Glenn, Steering and Advocacy Committee  
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