



TESTIMONY FOR HB0629

Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Johnson, Andre
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0621 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

It is no secret that Maryland is in desperate need of energy for our grid. We have allowed the very agencies that were tasked with managing the grid to get cozy with fossil fuel companies and data center providers, and now prices have soared. We have had a lot of talk lately about nuclear, which is not viable in the short term (and unlikely to be viable in the long term). We've tried to ramp up solar in the state.

The one thing we haven't talked about is wind. Maryland could become a leader in wind energy generation, and the manufacture of turbines if we could just manage to look ahead. It could mean new jobs into the future and allow the state to control more of our own energy generation.

This bill, if enacted, would study land-based wind as a partial solution to our energy generation needs. It would not be a long study, with a report due by the end of the year, and would be handled by MEA.

Our members recognize that the state does not want to spend money on studies, but this one would not be very expensive and would give us a path to making wind energy part of our future.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.