

Maryland House Committee on Environment and Transportation
Nuclear Energy Institute
Testimony in Support of HB 970
February 24, 2026

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 970. My name is John Kotek and I am senior vice president for policy and public affairs at the Nuclear Energy Institute, the national trade organization representing the commercial nuclear energy industry.

Nuclear energy is already Maryland's largest source of carbon-free electricity, providing about three-quarters of the state's carbon-free generation. Calvert Cliffs operates at a capacity factor of more than 95 percent, delivering reliable, emissions-free power around the clock.

Preserving and properly valuing nuclear is essential to meeting the state's emissions reduction commitments. Across the country, states such as Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina, and Virginia have updated their clean energy standards to include nuclear because achieving ambitious climate targets requires retaining and expanding all forms of clean, dispatchable generation. At the federal level, Congress has also recognized nuclear as clean energy through production tax credits and technology-neutral clean electricity incentives.

Maryland is part of the PJM region, which is experiencing growing electricity demand and increasing reliability pressures. As electrification expands and new large loads connect to the grid, maintaining firm, dispatchable, carbon-free generation becomes even more critical. Including nuclear helps protect ratepayers, maintain grid reliability, and prevent backsliding in emissions reductions.

House Bill 970 positions Maryland for the future. Advanced nuclear technologies offer enhanced safety, flexible deployment, and the ability to complement renewable resources. Technology-neutral policies ensure Maryland remains competitive for clean energy investment.

House Bill 970 modernizes Maryland's clean energy framework to reflect what is already true: nuclear energy is carbon-free, reliable, and essential to achieving the state's climate goals. NEI respectfully urges the Committee to advance this bill. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a reliable, affordable, and clean energy future

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