



**Bill: HB1349 Public Service Commission – Implementation Plan to Convert Formerly Operational Fossil Fuel Generating Stations**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions, we are writing to express our support for HB1349, which seeks to develop an implementation plan to convert formerly operational fossil fuel generating stations in the State to natural gas generating stations and to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2027.

HB 1349 takes a prudent, planning-focused approach to grid reliability and resource. It requires the PSC to assess the feasibility, costs, legal and engineering barriers, and potential ownership structures associated with converting legacy fossil fuel sites to modern natural gas generation. Former generating sites are often already integrated into the transmission system and located near load centers, which can reduce siting conflicts, permitting timelines, and interconnection costs compared with greenfield development.

We are particularly supportive of the bill's requirement that the PSC conduct a robust stakeholder process that includes the Office of People's Counsel, the Maryland Energy Administration, the Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment, utilities, generation and gas transmission owners, nonprofit advocacy organizations, and affected local governments. This structure helps ensure that the implementation plan will balance ratepayer impacts, environmental considerations, system reliability, and local economic development needs.

Importantly, HB 1349 does not mandate any specific project; rather, it calls for a comprehensive implementation plan and recommendations, including draft legislation if needed, which can then be evaluated by the General Assembly in light of Maryland's existing greenhouse gas reduction requirements, including the statutory mandate to reduce emissions 60 percent below 2006 levels by 2031 and to reach net-zero emissions by 2045. This is a measured step that promotes informed decision-making as Maryland continues to implement the Climate Solutions Now Act and related policies.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1349.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing leadership on Maryland's energy and environmental policy.

Sincerely,

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Peters  
Executive Director  
The Maryland Coalition of Energy Solutions