

HB0629 - SUPPORT
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HB0629– Maryland Energy Administration - Study on Land-Based Wind Energy

House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is William Mascioli. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. I raised my children here. Retired now, I worked for over 35 years as an attorney for the federal government protecting the collective-bargaining rights of workers under the National Labor Relations Act, an edifice of rights built on the foundation of “concerted activity for mutual aid and protection.” I was dedicated to that work because that notion of mutual aid and protection is deeply personal for me. I have tried to conduct my life guided by principles of compassion, empathy, and recognition that we are all tied together by threads of obligation and responsibility – to each other as humans, to future generations, and to the natural world that sustains us. For decades now, I have lived with growing anxiety and despair over our reckless and irresponsible failure to deal with the ongoing climate crisis with anything approaching adequacy.

These days, like, I trust, most of us, I am terrified and dismayed by the country’s slide into authoritarianism, most immediately evident by the brutal and lawless treatment of members of our community by the agents of ICE and the rest of the deportation apparatus. I have been pleased, proud, and impressed by this legislature’s efforts to rein in ICE’s abuses. The climate crisis is every bit as threatening to our democracy as Trump’s depredations against our national morals. Indeed, the suffering and injustices that it threatens--and the political disruptions that those will entail--cannot be overstated. It warrants *at least* the same level of attention.

Put simply, Maryland needs to act quickly to do its part to combat the climate crisis by moving away from fossil fuels. Four years ago, by passing the Climate Solutions Now Act, Maryland announced its determination to meet essential targets of decarbonization. Doing so, of course, requires a panoply of specific steps. Increasing our land-based wind generation is an essential and obvious such step.

For more than a decade, Maryland’s development of onshore wind in parts of the state with tremendous generating potential has been shackled by legislation based on concerns about interfering with the Pax River Naval Air Base’s radar systems. Those concerns are anachronistic.

Turbines can now be built where it was not economically feasible to build them before, and novel approaches have been used to ensure turbines don't interfere with the radar systems of an air base.

It is time for Maryland to throw off those shackles and move toward developing its onshore wind potential. Onshore wind is affordable – far cheaper than gas and coal generation. Onshore turbines can be built quickly and with Maryland labor meeting prevailing wages. It has been shown to be compatible with farmland, easing farmers' economic stresses by generating a revenue stream for them while generating clean electricity for Maryland.

This has become increasingly important in view of the Trump administration's determined efforts to interfere with offshore wind generation.

I urge you to support HB 629, which will start this needed process by commissioning a study of the total potential land-based wind generation in Maryland, including a description of successful mitigation efforts to allow wind turbines to operate in the same area as military radar technology. Thank you for your consideration.