



February 24, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Favorable - HB0897 - Electricity Transmission and Distribution, Energy Storage, and Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (Lower Bills and Local Power Act of 2026)

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

On behalf of the Moore-Miller Administration, I respectfully ask the committee to issue a favorable report on HB0897—Electricity Transmission and Distribution, Energy Storage, and Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (Lower Bills and Local Power Act of 2026). The legislation directly addresses the growing burden of high energy costs facing Maryland families by strengthening our local clean energy supply and advancing meaningful relief for ratepayers.

The high cost of energy is one of the most pressing challenges facing our state and our people. We hear from constituents every day about the need to rein in prices, and they expect us to prioritize affordability, reliability and sustainability. While my administration and this body have made meaningful progress together, we must do more to make utility bills more affordable and the grid more dependable.

This means responding to that current reality by reducing long-term costs and accelerating the deployment of reliable generation within Maryland. This is more than megawatts and transmission corridors; this is about whether Maryland families can afford to live in their homes and whether businesses can continue to grow in our state.

To do so, the Lower Bills and Local Power Act accelerates the development of local clean energy by creating a Solar and Energy Storage Market Stabilization Program to support shovel-ready projects that have been disrupted by federal policy changes, using a competitive bidding process. The federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 significantly rolled back renewable energy incentives, including the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), putting Maryland projects in jeopardy. By reducing financial uncertainty and offering gap funding for critical clean energy projects, Maryland will attract investment more quickly, increasing in-state generation capacity at a time when traditional regional markets have failed to deliver affordable supply.

This legislation also modernizes Maryland’s transmission and distribution infrastructure by prioritizing the deployment of Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs). These hardware and software solutions increase the capacity, efficiency, and resilience of existing electrical grid infrastructure without requiring new and costly line construction. They enable more power flow by optimizing existing infrastructure, improving grid stability, and reducing congestion. By optimizing what we already have, ATTs can reduce congestion, improve reliability, and help avoid or delay expensive capital projects, and ultimately lowering long-term cost for Maryland ratepayers.

Additionally, the Lower Bills and Local Power Act authorizes the strategic use of existing highway rights-of-way for transmission and storage projects. With funding for the Maryland Department of Transportation to identify these opportunities, the state can expedite infrastructure expansion, reduce permitting delays, and lower overall project costs. These deployment enhancements will have real impacts on reliability for ratepayers across Maryland.

Regionally, we have taken action to lower costs through our continued advocacy within PJM. Our most recent win will save ratepayers across the region an estimated \$27 billion on their energy bills. This legislation further protects Maryland households and businesses by eliminating outdated utility profit incentives by requiring investor-owned utilities to participate in the regional transmission organization. This requirement is expected to generate tens of millions of dollars in annual savings for Maryland ratepayers and promote accountability for utility companies.

Finally, the legislation provides immediate relief through another round of direct bill rebate for Maryland families that this body passed last year. These rebates offer immediate relief today while the mid-term and long-term reforms in the bill begin to deliver structural improvements to Maryland’s energy system.

I appreciate the thoughtful feedback our administration has received from stakeholders and look forward to ongoing dialogue to ensure the right balance of programmatic needs and offering relief to Maryland families.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the committee issue a **favorable** report on House Bill 897—Lower Bills and Local Power Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wes Moore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland