



Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035
410-922-3426 | www.mdfarmbureau.com

February 17, 2026

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau

RE: IN SUPPORT OF – House Bill 674 Public Service Commission – Full Costs and Benefits Analysis of Sources of Electricity Generation

On behalf of the 7,000 farm families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 674. Maryland agriculture operates on narrow margins and depends on reliable, affordable electricity. Irrigation, poultry house ventilation, dairy cooling, grain drying, and on-farm processing run around the clock. Even modest increases in per-kilowatt-hour rates or new demand charges directly impact farm profitability and regional competitiveness.

HB 674 aligns directly with Maryland Farm Bureau policy supporting energy reliability, rate affordability, transparency in utility ratemaking, and careful evaluation of policies that affect ratepayers. The bill directs the Public Service Commission to conduct a comprehensive, system-wide cost and benefit analysis of competing generation sources, including the full cost of reliability, transmission, backup capacity, and storage. That disciplined approach reflects our policy position that energy decisions must account for total system impacts and protect consumers, including agricultural producers.

By promoting transparency, accountability, and sound fiscal analysis, HB 674 strengthens Maryland's long-term energy planning. A clear understanding of full system costs will help ensure a balanced generation portfolio that maintains reliability, supports economic growth, and protects ratepayers. That certainty benefits farmers, rural communities, and the broader Maryland economy alike.

For these reasons, the Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 674.

Please reach out to Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio at jeannie@randrsolutions.us, with any questions.