

## Maryland's House Bill 1190 Oral Testimony

Chair and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, I'm Glen Lyons speaking on behalf of Advocates for Consumer Regulated Electricity. Before I begin my comments on the bill, I refer you to three documents submitted as written testimony: a one-page summary of Consumer Regulated Electricity, a briefing paper titled, "The Case for Consumer-Regulated Electricity," and a hardcopy of this oral testimony. We support HB 1190 and request a Favorable Report.

Maryland has a pressing concern about rising electricity prices, reasons to worry about the future reliability of the grid, and a desire for continued economic growth. HB 1190 will help with all three. The bill creates a new type of provider, the "off-grid electricity provider"—meaning a facility that does not interconnect with Maryland's electric system. Since these new providers are off-grid, they can't impose costs or reliability risks on the existing system or its ratepayers. Since they can't impact the existing system, they don't need utility regulation. Since they don't need utility regulation, they will be able to develop new projects faster, attracting some of the new loads from the existing system, thereby reducing cost and reliability pressures. And since they can move faster, they can attract new businesses interested in speed.

Importantly, HB 1190 does not waive Maryland's environmental, siting, or construction approval requirements. Off-grid providers must still comply with the State's established processes for constructing generating facilities. Nothing in HB 1190 displaces applicable local zoning, land use authority, or generally applicable safety requirements. Think of the bill as a pressure relief valve for electricity ratepayers.

We urge a favorable report. Thank you.

Glen C. Lyons

[GlenCLyons@Advocates4CRE.org](mailto:GlenCLyons@Advocates4CRE.org)

Founder and Chief Advocate

Advocates for Consumer Regulated Electricity

[Advocates4CRE.org](http://Advocates4CRE.org)