



House Environment and Transportation Committee
March 6, 2026

House Bill 1349 – *Public Service Commission – Implementation Plan to Convert Formerly Operational Fossil Fuel Generating Stations*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State's largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State's life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1349.

House Bill 1349 would require the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop a detailed implementation plan to convert former operational fossil-fuel power plants in the state into natural-gas-fueled generating stations. This bill would initiate a formal planning process to shift some of Maryland's energy infrastructure from older fossil-fuel power generation to natural gas. The MTC works alongside state policymakers to grow the State's technology and life sciences sectors. Companies across sectors, including biotechnology, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, data infrastructure, and health innovation, rely on stable, high-capacity, and affordable energy.

Energy generation, supply, and affordability have been at the forefront of policy debates in the General Assembly this Session. The State has experienced increasing reliance on imported power and rising prices across the board. These price increases affect businesses as well as residential ratepayers. Increasing costs directly affect investment decisions, hiring, and Maryland's competitiveness as a destination for innovation and capital. Companies evaluating where to expand or locate new facilities carefully assess long-term energy reliability and pricing. Uncertainty in supply or sustained price volatility can discourage growth and drive investment to neighboring states with more predictable energy infrastructure. For high-energy-use sectors, such as biotechnology manufacturing, semiconductor fabrication, artificial technology and cloud computing infrastructure, and advanced research laboratories, access to dependable generation capacity is a decisive factor.

House Bill 1349 recognizes the aforementioned challenges and takes a pragmatic step toward evaluating the feasibility of repurposing retired fossil-fuel plants as natural-gas-fueled generating stations. Rather than requiring immediate construction, the bill creates a thoughtful process to examine options that could strengthen grid reliability and reduce costs. Natural gas generation can be part of the solution, along with renewable sources, which can provide dispatchable, on-demand power that helps maintain reliability during periods of peak demand.

For Maryland to remain competitive in attracting research institutions, advanced manufacturers, data centers, biotech companies, and other emerging technology firms, we must ensure that our energy policy supports both environmental goals and economic growth. For these reasons, the MTC respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 1349.

For more information call:

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