



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 1349

Public Service Commission – Implementation Plan to Convert Formerly Operational Fossil Fuel Generating Stations

Date: March 6, 2026

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**

From: Gussie Maguire,
MD Staff Scientist

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES House Bill 1349** which requires the Public Service Commission to develop a plan to convert formerly operation fossil fuel generating stations to natural gas generating stations. Natural gas is also a fossil fuel which emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when burned. Natural gas is a powerful greenhouse gas, as it is largely composed of methane, and any leaks in natural gas systems result in further contribution to atmospheric concentrations, further exacerbating anthropogenic climate change.

Maryland is already facing extreme impacts of climate change. From catastrophic flooding in Westernport to extreme heat in urban centers to saltwater inundation on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, anthropogenic climate change has cost the state lives, livelihoods, and millions of dollars¹. Often, overburdened and underserved communities and individuals are most at risk for these harmful outcomes. Though natural gas is much touted for its “clean burning” properties, it is still a fossil fuel: the reality is that additional investment in fossil fuel energy generation will undermine Maryland’s significant investment in climate adaptation and resilience and place its residents and ecosystems at further risk.

CBF urges the Committee’s UNFAVORABLE report on HB 1349.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ [Center for Climate Integrity: Maryland Climate Impacts and Costs](#)