

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

Subject: **Opposition** to HB 1190, which was cross-filed with SB26.

The bill is vague, and it's concerning that it exempts certain off-grid electricity providers from obtaining certificates of public convenience and necessity and certain other required approvals.

As you are aware, a certificate of public convenience and necessity includes the issuance of the required air-quality and water-appropriation permits. If we remove these safeguards, how will we protect our environment and the health of Maryland residents?

During the Public Service Commission hearing process, individuals and organizations have a right to participate; this bill directly strips residents of the ability to participate in ensuring that their communities are safe from the development of harmful off-grid electricity providers.

Why are we considering legislation aimed at attracting industries that are not specifically defined within this bill? It is important to ensure that any such industries do not become exempt from the established processes intended to facilitate participation and safeguard our environment.

I urge you to vote against these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Clare Buckle

Western Maryland Resident

District 1B