



EASTON UTILITIES

Life. Made better.™

March 10, 2026

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee
From: Easton Utilities Commission
Bill: HB 1404 - Public Utilities – Energy Generation and Transmission
Position: Support

On behalf of Easton Utilities Commission (EUC), a small municipally-owned utility and telecommunications company operating the electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, cable TV, and internet services for the Town of Easton and portions of the surrounding area, I am writing to express our support for **HB 1404**.

Among other provisions, this bill would make explicit the ability to construct, permit, and operate an energy generating system fueled by natural gas in Maryland.

Easton Utilities supports a diverse mixture of fuels/sources to address Maryland's current and future base-load energy demands, while being mindful of long-term reliability, resiliency, and sustainability. To ensure high reliability, we utilize a diverse portfolio of energy sources, including solar, ultra-low-sulfur diesel, and clean, affordable natural gas. This enhances energy security and helps insulate our customers from energy disruptions.

Uniquely, we are a vertically-integrated electric company, capable of generating enough electricity to serve our customers and act as a micro-grid were the need to arise. This means we can keep our customers' lights on and serve as a staging area for first responders and disaster relief/recovery for the entire Delmarva Peninsula in a time of widespread grid disruption.

However, though modernized and upgraded over the years, our fleet of generators are aging (our oldest was put into service in 1954) and increased demand for electricity meant that during the recent bitter cold snap in January, consumption briefly exceeded the amount of electricity we can produce to cover our native load.

Investing in new natural gas generation would allow Easton Utilities to maintain its ability to serve as a micro-grid, enhancing the Eastern Shore's and the State's resiliency, while at the same time helping to increase in-State generation and alleviate some of the very real concerns about resource capacity currently facing the State in the near and long term.

For these reasons, Easton Utilities supports **HB 1404** and respectfully urges a **Favorable Report**.

Please contact Kurt Fuchs with any questions at kfuchs@eucmail.com or 443-786-0855.